

Hafa Adai!

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One agency left to sign off on Kagman, SV road paving. » PAGE 5

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Dog population on Saipan at about 21K

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

There were an estimated 21,100 dogs on Saipan in 2014, according to data released by the Humane Society International.

Statistics from HSI show that an estimated 12,300 are street dogs, both owned or unowned, while only 8,800 are owned and confined.

In an interview yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office, HIS Hawaii senior state director and Pacific Islands policy coordinator Inga Gibson told *Saipan Tribune* that the dog sur-

See DOG on Page 4

Aldan softens tone on Pagan

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Jerome Aldan and Marine Forces Pacific executive director Craig B. Whelden met yesterday

at Aldan's office to discuss the military's planned use of Pagan, plans for the island's resettlement, and the National Environment Act Policy process currently ongoing.

See ALDAN on Page 4



Inos: Transition report out soon

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said he and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres are eagerly awaiting the reports from their transition team so they can start reorganizing the government.

RELATED NEWS

» Torres: We are in this together.
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"Over the past few weeks, my transition team has been hard at work examining every agency of your government. This was not available to me two years ago and Ralph and I wanted to ensure we had a complete overview of how your government operates. In

the coming days the reports from my transition team will be completed—these reports will help Ralph and I understand where our strengths and weaknesses are. After reviewing the

reports, we will continue to build on our positives and strengthen our weak points," he said during his inauguration speech Monday at the Governor's Office parking lot.

The Committee on Transition is led by chair Gregorio M. Camacho and is made up of a nine-person Transition

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MILITARY COMES A-CALLING

From left, Marine Corps Forces Pacific executive director Craig Whelden, Pacific Command Strategic Planning and Policy director Maj. Gen. Michael Dana, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, and Pacific Air Forces Strategy, Plans, and Programs director Brig. Gen. Steven Basham pose for a group photo following their meeting yesterday at the Governor's Office conference room.

MARK RABAGO

INSIDE



ASIA

Pope Francis arrives in Sri Lanka at the start of a weeklong Asian tour.

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FOCUS

Slaves who were freed from South Korean salt farms face misery in shelters.

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LIFE & STYLE

A farmer wants to take a wife on the 19th season of ABC's "The Bachelor."

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Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'a'ase, Oloomway.

Local

Legislature will take two to four years to update outdated laws

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) believes updating some of the CNMI's outdated laws would take both the Senate and House of Representatives two to four years of hard work.

Igisomar, who served as Commerce secretary for two years under former governor Benigo Fitial's administration, said that some of the laws they need to review are on economic development and the civil and criminal codes.

"Our job as legislators is to work together to enact laws in order to improve the lives of the people that we're serving. We need to pass laws to protect the lives of the people in line with the CNMI and U.S. Constitutions," said Igisomar in an interview by *Saipan Tribune*.

"Improving the people's lives means finding ways on how to have better health care, provide affordable utilities, enhance our education so students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to compete in the modern world, and equip our law enforcement to provide law and order in our community," he added.

Igisomar said the practice of the justices writing the legislators annually about these outdated laws is a good way of establishing proper communication in both branches of the government.

He learned about this practice during the Judiciary's Law and the Freshman Legislator seminar conducted last week for first term members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro, U.S. District Court for the CNMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Associate Judges Kenneth L. Govendo, Joseph N. Camacho, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and Judiciary legal counsel



JON PEREZ
Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar signs his oath of office while CNMI Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja looks on during the 19th CNMI Senate's first organizational session on Monday at Capitol Hill.

Michael A. Stanker were the resource speakers while Justice John A. Manglona was the moderator.

But further boosting the economy is Igisomar's main agenda in the 19th CNMI Legislature. "Economic enhancement and development is my concern, being a person who came from the business and commerce sector. The current laws and revenue generation are two areas I want to focus on."

The Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications committee chairman said the Legislature and Governor's Office need to work together in this area.

"I became a Commerce secretary when economic development was weak. We lack the resources and my department only had 20 employees after many were retrenched due to austerity measures," said Igisomar.

"The [then] governor [Fitial] encouraged me and my

team to be creative in working with limited resources. We set up a state development plan and regulated the business industry," he added.

"In regards to revenue generation, we must start planning and find ways to improve it so our government can begin to meet its obligation to the people."

Igisomar likened the CNMI's economy to still being 50 feet underwater and the government and Legislature needs to work together to go within snorkeling level.

"And then maybe we could eventually swim up the water. We need to find solutions so our future children won't have the same problems. There will come a time that we're going to make some hard decisions but we need to start setting up rules for us to move forward," said Igisomar.

"Nothing will prevent us to do our own work outside our respective committees. A lot of work needs to be done."

265 turn out for Lions Club's health fair

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

A total of 265 people availed of the Lions Clubs International, District 204, Region 2 health fair on Sunday at the Joeten Dai Dai Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanao.

The health fair started at 8am and ended at 12pm.

Lions Clubs region chair Ladysvir Canape said the turnout was good. "We were able to service 200-plus people and gave away about 300 reading glasses for free," she said.

The Guam Lions Club donated the reading glasses to the Lion's Club Region 2.

Those that participated in the health fair got to do blood pres-

sure testing, sugar/glucose testing, vision screening, and eye pressure test. There was also diabetes awareness campaign, cancer awareness and general health awareness.

Canape said they are planning to have one health fair on Timian as well by March or April.

"Even last year we were planning two for a year but it is hard on funding, so maybe we will stick to only once a year," Canape said.

"We are planning to have another golf tournament by May and if it is successful we will have another health fair by the end of the year and do a feeding program and give food to the man'amko and other groups," she added.

Volunteers at the health fair included Commonwealth Health Center nurses Ernie Molina, Marie Meister, Eden R. Gonzales, Margarita Valle, and Hardt Eye Clinic, Guam Marianas Lions Club, and Commonwealth Cancer Association's program manager Juan Babauta and Patricia Kaipat of CCA.

Sponsors of the fair included Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center, PHI Pharmacy, TSL Foundation, Lion member Joe Dingo of Graphics, member Nelida Atalig of Don Pedro Restaurant, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Mario Mayuga, member Eli Arago, member Annamae Adaza, Canape, member Jhun Canape and family, member Tess Talens, and Saipan Ice and Water Co.

EPA's request for CUC accounting found premature

» Judge clarifies EEMC's responsibilities

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter has found premature the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a full accounting of funds or potential funds for some Commonwealth Utilities Corp. projects.

In the same order on Monday, Carter clarified his previous order pertaining to the responsibilities of the Engineering and Environmental Management

Company in managing various stalled CUC projects.

Carter recently selected Gilbane Federal, a California-based full service construction company, as EEMC, which will have the power to expeditiously complete some CUC projects.

Carter issued the order after listening to oral arguments last week on CUC's motion to clarify order.

On the full accounting issue, the judge said the U.S. government's sur-reply filed last Jan. 3 argues that CUC is attempting

to require the EEMC to take responsibility for CUC's contracts and evade financial obligations.

Carter said the U.S. government asks that the court require a full accounting from CUC of all funding for all past, current, and future stipulated order 2 projects.

SO2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that include the CUC pipeline, tank erection cleanout and testing, secondary containment, and used oil disposal, and others.

Carter said CUC has indicated that it is willing to provide updated information to the U.S.

government in order to cooperate with the request.

"The court therefore finds the request premature," the judge said.

Carter ordered the U.S. government, EPA, and CUC to meet and confer regarding the substance of the U.S. government's sur-reply. He set a status conference on Jan. 21 at 4:30pm to discuss whether the U.S. government has received adequate disclosures from CUC.

On the EEMC responsibilities issue, CUC seeks an order "construing, clarifying and enforcing the provisions of

the order as they relate to the management responsibilities of the EEMC over the various projects directed and mandated by SO2."

The main dispute is whether the EEMC is required "during the term of its contract, to be responsible for the implementation and management of all 13 SO2 projects" listed in a preliminary cost estimate created by the parties, besides those given to CUC's technical manager for oil.

CUC, through counsel James Sirok, argues that it is, and that the EPA cannot unilaterally direct CUC to complete any of these projects.

The U.S. government, through U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley O'Brien, disputes CUC's characterization of the order in so far as it takes the position that EPA does not have the authority to direct whether the EEMC, CUC, or EPA will

implement SO2 projects, depending on the circumstances.

Carter said given EEMC's authority to implement all requirements under SO2, it is presumed that the EEMC will be the contractor for the 13 prioritized project initially listed in the parties' cost estimates.

"This presumption is rebuttable, however, based on the circumstances, including funding and existing contractual and funding obligations of the CUC," Carter said.

Notably, the judge said, the EEMC is not obligated under the terms of the EEMC order to take responsibility for existing CUC contracts/obligations absent an agreement regarding CUC's existing funding obligations, and resolution of CUC's prior contractual obligations.

"Under the order, CUC therefore remains responsible for projects for which it has existing contracts or firm funding obligations," Carter said.

Torres: We are in this together



Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres delivers his speech during his inauguration Monday afternoon.
MARK A. RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres mixed promises to improve the lives of the people of the Commonwealth with high praise and thank you galore to family, friends, and supporters during his inauguration speech Monday afternoon.

"The road ahead will be difficult. Our successes will be tempered with the understanding that there is still more work to accomplish and our failures will be even more painful knowing that you deserve more from your government. We are standing at the foot of a mountain of government obligations—a mountain that cannot be climbed without the pursuit and realization of economic growth. This task is indeed daunting. But we should remember that our economy is nothing more than the combined actions and will of each and every one of us," he said while reading his speech from the makeshift stage at the parking lot of the Governor's Office on Capital Hill.

Torres added that if the great history of the CNMI is any testament to the will of the people, there is no doubt in his mind that the Commonwealth will persevere.

"It was not so long ago that a group of young men and women banded together with an ambitious goal of achieving self-government here in the

NMI. They saw the road ahead of them as uncertain, their youth and experience brought into question, and their idealism ridiculed. The truth is, in creating our Covenant and our Constitution, they could not have envisioned the NMI as it is today, but they rose to the call of public service, and crafted a strong democratic society of which we celebrate here."

He said in many ways the CNMI is still beginning its story as a Commonwealth and if it were a person, it would be less than 40 years old.

"As I look around and see all of you who are younger than 40, I see the product of our founders: we are a plethora of race, culture, and creed. And I am proud of how far we have come in the short time that we have been a democracy. In the span of 40 years, we have built thousands of homes, we have paved roads that span one end of our island to the next, we have proudly shared the beauty of our islands with tourists, and we have multiplied the number of schools throughout all our islands," he said.

Torres also realizes that the past 40 years have not always been pretty.

"We have homes that have been vandalized, roads that need repair, tourism has dropped, and our schools are overcrowded. But with every success and disappointment that our government has had to endure, one

factor has always remained constant. This one factor is what makes our people and our islands unique. This one factor is what heals us after an election, and what feeds us through the next four years. It is the factor that we are all truly related in one way or another. We are one family and we are in this together."

Torres said this sense of community is what makes the islands unique and what makes living in the Commonwealth worth all the trouble.

"We must hold strong to the belief that the child who refuses to go to school because his parents cannot afford shoes or decent clothing is our child; that the mother who works two jobs to make enough to feed her children is our mother; and the father who struggles against the demons of alcoholism and substance abuse is our father. It is when bonds that tie us together as one family are stronger than those that wish to tear us apart that we have the strength to press forward against the challenges that we face."

To this end, Torres said he and Gov. Eloy S. Inos would strive to make the CNMI a better place to live.

"We will work honestly and tirelessly to provide our family with exceptional health care services, reasonable utility rates, dependable and consistent retirement, and whatever else it takes to protect our family. We

must believe that the success of our people does not lie in how well we are doing individually, but in how well we are all doing, especially those in the greatest need. And in that, we must not govern with the interests of the few in mind, but with the good of entire Commonwealth—Rota, Tinian, the Northern Islands, and Saipan—at heart.

"So I ask each and every one of you to continue to believe in our family and that we are all in this together."

In between reading his speech, Torres thanked his three older brothers—Vince, Victorino, and Joaquin—for guiding him. He also gave kudos to his mother, probably saying, "I love you" to the family matriarch half a dozen times, mostly in Chamorro. But the newly minted lieutenant governor reserved the last and most important praises to his wife, Lady Diane, and their five children. He thanked his wife for allowing him to seek public office and all the sacrifices they have to endure, especially during the past election.

Torres also thanked his five children for understanding that their father's time is divided between them and the people he serves. He admitted that it's hard to be away from his family but it's the sacrifice he must make to help the CNMI become a better place for his children and the islands' future generation.

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The Commonwealth Cancer Association General Membership Meeting

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA), and all members of the community are invited to the general membership meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the 2014 annual report of the President and Treasurer, election of four Board members and an opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance and on the floor during the meeting.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information contact CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com.

Ex-Tinian cop gets 25 years in prison for raping minor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday slapped a 25-year prison term against former Tinian police officer Melvin Ilo Monkeya, who was convicted of sexually abusing a then-14-year-old girl inside the Tinian police station in 2008.

"The pain and hurt of what Melvin Monkeya did is real, the responsibility for what Melvin Monkeya did rests completely on Melvin Monkeya. No one else is to blame," said Camacho at the sentencing held at the Tinian Courthouse.

For sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, Camacho imposed the full maximum sentence of 30 years, with the first 25 years to be served day to day, without the possibility of parole early release, work or weekend release.

Camacho suspended five years to allow the Office of Adult Probation to monitor the

43-year-old Monkeya as a sex offender. The defendant was given credit for time served. He was ordered to register as a sex offender.

After completing the prison term, Monkeya will be placed on 10 years of probation.

Camacho said when the defendant is released at the age of 68, the Office of Adult Probation will be able to monitor him into his late 70's.

The judge said imposing 1,000 hours of community service is appropriate because there is a suspended sentence and the Office of Adult Probation can monitor him as he completes his community service.

Camacho said no parole is appropriate because Monkeya was a police officer at the time he committed the crime.

He said for the defendant to be made eligible for parole would not serve the interest of justice.

"Defendant was a sworn police officer and had an affirm-

ative duty to uphold the law—defendant Melvin Monkeya should have been on his good behavior the moment he chose a life in law enforcement," Camacho said.

Camacho did not impose a fine because Monkeya has been in jail since his arrest and is unemployed.

Camacho said Monkeya fits a particular type of pedophile—the perpetrator profile of a hebephile which is a person who is primarily attracted to an adolescent; children who have at least started puberty and have signs of adult sexual maturation, but are still young and developing both mentally and physically.

The judge said sometimes a hebephile will use an adult relationship as a cover.

Camacho said based on the victim's, witnesses' and even Monkeya's now-girlfriend's letters in the presentence investigation report, Monkeya appears to prefer sexual relations with minor girls.

"This deep rooted sexual deviance is a particular concern for the court," he said.

Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty recommended a sentence of 30 years with no fine.

Flaherty argued that defendant was in law enforcement, there were multiple victims even though he was only charged with one count/incident.

Attorney Jennifer Dockter, counsel for Monkeya, recommended a sentence of 10 years with no fine.

Dockter argued that defendant was a loving father who cared for his children, a good son to his mother, and that the Legislature's intent is that a person should be sentenced to less than 15 years if he or she has no prior felony conviction.

At the sentencing, Camacho said Monkeya lived two lives.

He said Monkeya's public life showed that he was loving and caring to his family and friends as well as a respected police officer.

The judge said Monkeya's second life was a dark secret—

he was a child molester.

Camacho said Monkeya used his public life to gain access and trust of the victim in this case, as well as the other minor females he victimized.

Camacho said as a police officer, Monkeya chose his victim carefully, took her to the police station, and used police interrogation techniques to break down the victim's defenses.

The judge said Monkeya coerced the victim into "re-enact-

ing" his sexual fantasy by doing the sexual acts of other rape and molestation victims in police files.

Camacho said he finds that this type of behavior goes to a deeply rooted sexual deviant behavior, that is, getting "turned on" by reading about how women and children are raped and molested and then re-enacting that deviant fantasy.

Camacho said by reading the victim statement, Monkeya's crime has ongoing damage.

ALDAN

From Page 1

Aldan, who in the past has been a staunch opponent to any use of Pagan by the military, appeared to have a change of heart after the meetings. Now he says he "wants to continue dialogue" and "not shut off the military" as far as Pagan is concerned.

"I mentioned that in the past I don't think we can co-exist but speaking to Mr. Whelden today, there's got to be a different approach to this. Because a lot of the information I got from him today is more informative of what the military is actually trying to do on Pagan island."

The talk yesterday has changed his view that the military will just "come in and bomb the entire area into oblivion," he said.

"Like any other person, when you hear the military you think about destruction. Let's say, for example, Farallon de Medinilla—they're bombing that. But according to Mr. Whelden, that is not the case right now and they are good stewards of the environment. So we are going to try to work this [NEPA] process, go through with that, and see what's at the end of the line and maybe we can have a firmer decision when we reach the end," he said.

Pagan has been proposed, along with Tinian, to develop joint military training in the CNMI. Right now there is a plan to have combined live fire and maneuver training on Pagan.

According to Whelden yesterday, the impact area of live fire, with "some munitions use," would be restricted to the volcanic area in the northern part of Pagan.

The live fire area would have a surface danger zone around it, Whelden said. This would take into account "error right and left, far and short."

He said the surface danger zone would be limited to areas that don't have flora or fauna, so that "we can protect Pagan in its very pristine state."

"The military—in modern times—has a pretty good record of being good stewards to the environment," Whelden said in an interview, adding that he has extended an invitation to Aldan to visit Hawaii so he can see "how Marines train" and "why Marines train."

Aldan and Whelden also talked about the resettlement or homesteading of Pagan and "how we can cohabitatem."

"The military only plans to use Pagan about 16 weeks per year, and that means there are many weeks where the military wouldn't be there," said Whelden.

The live fire area would be in public space. Two alternatives for the live fire training have been proposed, each of different sizes that would be "basically centered around the [northern] volcanic area where there is just rock lava" versus the south where "there is more pristine fauna and flora," according to Whelden.

The preferred alternative will be out in the draft environmental impact statement due by the end of April. Whelden assured that the decision will "take into concerns of all the Northern Islands people."

Public hearings will follow in May, with probably two hearings on Saipan and one on Tinian, according to the director. One of the Saipan meetings will be "focused on the folks from the Northern islands," he said.

The DEIS has been delayed, with its release pushed back from last year to February or March this year, and now to April.

The reason for this is because the military "has heard about the concerns that the CNMI has," Whelden said.

"We are trying to craft a solution that is closer to meeting the needs and the desires of the people of the CNMI" so that the military "can put more due diligence in our efforts to address some of the concerns," he said.

On Tinian, concerns range from cattle leaseback area, the solid waste disposal, special use airspace, and building on the Tinian airport, among others, that must be addressed to support military activities.

Whelden described the EIS as "halfway through." A Record of Decision will probably be due in the summer of 2016.

Aldan, while expressing he's willing to continue dialogue, clarified that "there is no position here right now."

"I'm not going to say that I'm confident that we can co-exist because the military is tricky. But given that they are paying for all these studies, let them do the studies" and "let the process play out and use it to our advantage."

He said the military is paying millions to study historical areas and assess the environmental impact.

"Having that information for us is good for us," he said, and encouraged the CNMI public to join in on the public hearings later this year.

INOS

From Page 1

Executive Committee made up of NMI Republican Party president James Ada as vice chairman and members Rufin S. Inos, Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, Esther S. Fleming, Mathilda A. Rosario, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and Torres brothers Vince, Victorino, and Joaquin.

"Now that we have received the mandate of the people to govern our islands, the continued task of improving government operations will begin anew. I make these pledges to you today! You will see a revital-

ized government that will serve all of the people. There will be more opportunities available to all the people in the CNMI in the coming months and years that will improve their lives," added the governor.

Inos also asked the CNMI people's help as the government starts a new chapter in the islands' history.

"This will not happen overnight and we will have our victories here and there, but it will be a continuous challenge. I will be the first to say that the Executive Branch cannot fight this battle alone. We need to put the full weight of the CNMI behind everything we do. We must put aside our

political and personal differences and come together as one if we are to succeed."

He also said that over the next four years, his administration would continue to openly extend its hand to the Legislature and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) for solutions to the issues affecting the Commonwealth.

Ditto to the CNMI's friends in the Pacific region and the federal government.

"Through these two fronts and in unison, I believe that we will be successful."

While saying that his new administration is a rejuvenated government ready to face the future and overcome any ob-

stacle, he, however, assured everyone that he and Torres will operate the government absent of political division and strife.

Inos also said his administration will look into streamlining the bureaucracy as much as possible.

"We will continue to curtail or eliminate non-essential spending, reduce overtime, and examine programs and services to determine whether operational redundancy warrants elimination. It is a new day in the CNMI and future is brighter than ever—join Ralph and I as we build a new path toward a more prosperous Commonwealth!"

Gibson said that when they did their survey in June, two types of survey were done. The first survey included surveying crews walking along the roads in the 21 villages for one to three hours and counting every dog seen and recorded their status that included sex, age, confinement status, sterilization status (only determined on male dogs) and its condition.

The second survey was for the households where the surveying crews asked residents of selected houses a series of questions that included the number of pets in their homes, sterilization/vaccination status, reason for not sterilizing/vaccinating, veterinary care received, and attitudes toward street dogs, and opinions on how to address the problems.

Reasons cited why dogs are not sterilized or vaccinate are that it was either too expensive, inconvenient, not needed, or they don't know about it.

Residents were also asked during the survey about household practices, attitudes, and experiences as they relate to dogs.

One-third of dog owners reported that they use, or would use, the services of a veterinarian at least occasionally. Expense was the most cited reason for not seeking veterinary care. About 40 percent feed dogs that they do not own, and the same percentage of households have experienced being bitten or threatened.

Guam's dog population is about three times larger than Saipan, with an estimate of 60,000 dogs, according to Gibson.

"Majority of the residents that were surveyed showed that 92.4 percent wanted support for management efforts that included education, subsidized services, sterilization or removal," Gibson said.

Compared to Guam

Saipan's dogs are more free roaming while Guam's are more confined. The breeding rates appear to be slightly higher on Saipan than in Guam, though not explicitly measured.

Vaccination rates are also somewhat higher in Guam, and registration rates are somewhat higher on Saipan. The reason for this, as Gibson explained, is that Guam has more services that residents can look forward to for their pet care.

Expense appears to be the larger impediment to sterilization and vaccination on Saipan than Guam, and willingness or ability to use veterinary care is lower on Saipan than Guam.

Guam's dog population is about three times larger than Saipan, with an estimate of 60,000 dogs, according to Gibson.

DOG

From Page 1

vey results point to the need for public education on spay/neuter programs and clinics.

The dog survey, which was done in June last year in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor's Office, reached out to 21 villages and surveyed dogs that were either seen or visited through residents' households.

The survey report states "that owned dogs make up the majority of the free-roaming street dog population, and thus dog owners are both important targets and key partners in any comprehensive humane management effort."

It adds: "Animal welfare concerns are not limited to the free-roaming dog population however. According to numerous observations recorded during dog counts and household surveys, the standards of care for owned dogs are often poor, with dogs frequently being tethered without adequate access to water or shelter, or experiencing unalleviated discomfort, distress, injury or illness."

Survey shows...

The HSI survey showed that majority of the dog population on Saipan is male. About 61.1 percent were male while 38.9 percent were female. Majority of them were adult dogs and about 99 percent of the free-roaming male dogs were not neutered. Those that were un-

One agency left to sign off on Kagman, SV road paving

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

According to Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), there is still one regulatory agency that needs to sign off on the permit before the paving project for three Kagman roads and one San Vicente road begins.

In an interview at his office yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said

all regulatory agencies have signed off on the permit except for the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Saipan Tribune tried to contact the person responsible at DFW for the permits but no one could not be reached as of press time.

Deleon Guerrero noted that after DFW signs off on the permit, mobilization of the project

will begin.

The Legislature's fiscal analyst, David S. Demapan, who was present at the interview, said the project's cost-estimate is \$506,446.94 for the four locations. However, one site is still underfunded.

Demapan said the project contractor, Hawaiian Rock, will be coming up with the estimates of how much is needed for Pine

Dr., one of the roads to be paved in Kagman 3.

Four sites are being looked at for the road paving project. The three locations in Kagman 3 are Chopak Drive, Pine Drive, and Mangga Street, while Katbun Drive in San Vicente near Stanford Resort will also be paved.

"About 200 feet of that road section is not paved," Deleon Guerrero said.

Demapan said the breakdown of the \$500,000 for the four locations are: Chopak Drive, \$340,701.62; Pine Drive, \$66,509.09 [which Demapan

noted is underfunded, according to Hawaiian Rock]; Mangga Street, \$76,758.54; and Katbun Drive, \$22,477.66.

Deleon Guerrero said that although the project cost has been estimated at \$500,000, that is not the final amount because there might be more costs along the way when the project starts.

Deleon Guerrero also said that although the Pine Drive paving is underfunded, he will try to draw from the \$90,000 that was specifically appropriated for Precinct 5.

The \$90,000 was from House

Local Bill 18-56 that became Saipan Local Law 18-22 after Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed it into law in December. The \$90,000 is allocated for various infrastructure improvement projects for Precinct 5.

"This project will still continue and we will try and ask DFW what is holding up on the signing and hopefully in the future, with the new Legislature, we can work together to find more funding for the rest of the roads in Kagman 3 because I have seen it and it needs to be paved," Deleon Guerrero said.

295 availing of NMHC's housing voucher program

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has 295 families under its Housing Choice Voucher program, according to NMHC program and housing division acting manager Brian Bocago.

Quoting his latest report to the NMHC board during their meeting on Tuesday, Bocago said that of that total, 274 are on Saipan, five are on Tinian, and 16 are on Rota.

In an earlier interview, Bocago said that of the 274 on Saipan, about 267 are on island while seven were issued their vouchers on Saipan but they chose to relocate to the U.S. mainland where the voucher

program is also administered.

Bocago also reported that about 304 are on the program's wait-list: 299 on Saipan and five on Tinian.

Bocago told board members that NMHC's Program and Housing Division issued a total of 16 vouchers in December 2014 and one applicant is still pending for an informal review.

"This round of eligibility closed out the remaining applicants from the previous waiting list and initiated the selection process from the new waiting list," Bocago said.

NMHC can only issue up to 363 vouchers. This program is only for those availing of privately owned scattered units

that are part of the program and housing division of NMHC's Section 8 Housing Assistance Program.

It is a federal program that provides housing assistance to very low and low-income families through funding from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. This program assists families in paying for rent, equivalent to 30 percent of their adjusted income or 10 percent of their gross income, whichever is greater. Low income families will be required to pay a minimum rent of \$25 per month unless the family requests and qualifies for a waiver exemption for the minimum rent requirement.



TRADING PLACES

Prior to leaving the Governor's Office, former lieutenant governor Jude U. Hofsneider met with then-Senate President and lieutenant governor-elect Ralph Torres to go over last-minute transition details before Inauguration Day. This marks the first week in office for the new Lt. Gov. Torres, and the once-again Sen. Hofsneider (R-Tinian).

Man gets 30-month prison term for selling 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has imposed a 30-month prison term against Bao Zhong Wang, who pleaded guilty to distribution of methamphetamine or "ice."

At a sentencing hearing on Monday afternoon, U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson gave Wang credit for time served.

Munson recommended to the Bureau of Prisons that Wang be made to participate in a substance abuse treatment program.

Upon completion of his prison term, Wang will be placed on three years of supervised release.

Among the conditions of the supervised release is that Wang shall be turned over to an immigration official for deportation.

Wang will be required to perform 100 hours of community service, pay a \$100 special assessment fee after sentencing, and forfeit to the U.S. government the proceeds of the sale of

"ice" in the amount of \$1,350.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton recommended a 30-month prison sentence, which is the low end of the sentencing guidelines. Court-appointed defense counsel Steven Pixley also recommended the same.

Munson granted the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the remaining charge as part of the defendant's plea deal with the prosecution.

Wang was remanded into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

In May 2014, Wang pleaded guilty to distribution of methamphetamine as part of a plea deal with the U.S. government.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of a 20-year prison term and a \$1 million fine.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, on Nov. 27, 2012, Wang, 46, sold 4.7 grams of 97.4 percent pure methamphetamine to a confidential source for the Drug Administration in exchange for \$1,350.

Wang was arrested in February 2014.

JUANT. LIZAMA
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 501508
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-7220/483-2662
Fax No. (670) 234-9093

Attorney for Administratrix

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF:) CIVIL ACTION) NO. 14-0134-CV
DONALD GLEN P. FLORES,) NOTICE TO) CREDITORS
a.k.a DONALD G. FLORES,))
Deceased.)

TO ALL CREDITORS OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD
GLEN P. FLORES:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a probate in
the estate of Donald Glen P. Flores (a.k.a. Donald
G. Flores) has been instituted in the Superior
Court in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

All persons having a claim against the
estate, or against the deceased should file
their claim with the Clerk of Court of the
Commonwealth Superior Court within sixty
(60) days after the first publication of this
notice. Failure to file any claim within the said
period of time may bar the claimant's claim.
Dated this 9th day of July, 2014.

/s/ JUANT. LIZAMA
Attorney for Administratrix



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-009

A-16 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 270 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 13, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-009, A-16 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 15, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Officer

Man shot and wounded at his Dandan house

A man was shot and wounded at his home in Dandan on Saturday, allegedly by a 52-year-old man with whom he had an argument with a few days before the attack.

Stanley Limes Laniyo was wounded on the left thumb and middle finger and was taken by medics to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Joseph William Barto was served with an arrest warrant in Lower Dandan on Saturday at 3:41pm for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace charges.

At a hearing on Monday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$10,000 cash bail and set the preliminary hearing for Jan. 20 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Jeffrey I. Norita stated in his report that a police officer who responded to a report of a shooting incident

on Saturday at 1:41am met with Laniyo, who was standing on the road side.

The officer saw that Laniyo's left hand was covered with a bloodstained white towel. Showing his injuries, Laniyo told the officer that Barto shot him.

Norita said that three days before the incident, Barto arrived at Laniyo's residence in Dandan to talk about drugs. Laniyo claimed that he told Barto to "get lost."

On Saturday, Laniyo was heading home from a nearby store when he saw Barto driving a car ahead of him. As Laniyo was parking his vehicle at his driveway, he saw Barto make a U-turn.

Laniyo got down from his car and noticed that Barto's vehicle was heading in his direction. When the vehicle got closer with the driver's

window rolled down, Laniyo saw Barto pointing a rifle at him.

Laniyo threw a coffee can he was holding at Barto and ran toward his house. Barto, however,

allegedly fired four to five shots. Barto then sped off toward the main road.

Laniyo managed to see the last three digits of the suspect's car's license plate. He then

called the police.

Two police officers later brought Laniyo to Barto's house, where the alleged victim identified the defendant and the Toyota Camry with license

plate ABU-796 that was parked at the house.

Crime scene technician found a used .22 caliber shell case on the road near Laniyo's residence. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Woman allegedly punches woman, then steals her car

A woman was arrested for allegedly punching a woman for refusing to let her borrow her car, then drove the vehicle away from her apartment unit in Susupe on Saturday afternoon.

Laraad Mekayla Ramangmou, 20, was caught after the alleged stolen vehicle—a red 2014 Hyundai Elantra sedan—that she was driving nearly caused an accident with other vehicles the following morning.

Ramangmou was arrested for theft of vehicle, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge

Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$117.50 cash bail or 10 percent of the \$1,175 cash bail that the court initially set.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for Ramangmou.

Police detective Dee Liza S. Udui stated in her report that preliminary investigation showed that on Saturday at 12:30pm to 1pm, Ramangmou was at the apartment unit of Doris S. Dhakal in Susupe to borrow her car.

Dhakal refused because Ramangmou borrowed her car before but got in trouble.

The defendant got mad, walked to Dhakal, who was in the living room, and punched her left chest. The defendant then grabbed the car key from the living room table and walked out of the apartment.

When Ramangmou ran out, Dhakal asked a woman who was standing outside the apartment to help her get her car key back. Dhakal could not run because her left foot was injured. The woman rode off with Ramangmou instead. Dhakal then called for police's assistance.

At 11:25am the following day, two police officers

who were traveling south on Monsignor Guerrero Road in front of Twins Supermarket spotted Dhakal's stolen car switching lanes without turning on the signal lights and nearly causing an accident with other vehicles.

When the car parked in front of Revenue and Taxation Office, the officers approached and saw the driver as Ramangmou, who was with a female passenger.

Ramangmou then started crying and allegedly admitted that she had argument with Dhakal and left with the latter's car. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

MTEC begins middle school presentations

The Marianas Tourism Education Council began its annual presentations to middle schools last week with educational presentations at Hopwood Middle School and Dandan Middle School.

MTEC addressed 8th grad-

ers at Hopwood on Tuesday, Jan. 6, on the importance of tourism. Pacific Islands Club Saipan director of Sports, Entertainment and Activities Glenn Policare joined the presentation to teach the students how to give greetings and say

"thank you" in Japanese, Korean, and Russian.

On Thursday, Jan. 8, MTEC visited Dandan, where several industry employees participated in the presentation. Robert Bansil and Robin Sablan of Marianna Resort & Spa shared with

students about their jobs, the importance of good time and attendance, and the value of being friendly to visitors. PDI general manager Gordon Marciano also shared about how he started in the industry as an entertainer and worked his way up to gen-

eral manager.

"We've very encouraged by the participation of industry employees teaching the students different aspects of tourism," said MTEC chairwoman Vicky Benavente. "Presenters like Glenn, Robert, Robin and Gordon have been dynamic in making tourism industry relevant in a way the students can

relate to."

MTEC will hold its annual MTEC Tourism Summit for public school system students on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort. The summit is expected to gather 600 students to learn about tourism and express their own thoughts on the Northern Marianas' primary economic driver. (*MTEC*)



Pacific Islands Club Saipan director of Sports, Entertainment and Activities Glenn Policare, left, gets help from a student at Hopwood Middle School on the correct pronunciation of "hello" and "thank you" in Korean. Policare taught students common greetings in Japanese, Korean, and Russian during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Jan. 6, 2015, and will also be a guest speaker at the MTEC Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23, 2015.



Students at Hopwood Middle School win prizes for correctly answering questions about tourism during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Jan. 6, 2015. Also pictured are MTEC member Catherine Perry, left, and MTEC chairwoman Vicky Benavente, third from right.



PDI general manager Gordon Marciano shares about his career in tourism at Dandan Middle School during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Jan. 8, 2015.



Marianas Resort & Spa bus driver Robin Sablan, left, and Transportation manager Robert Bansil address the students of Dandan Middle School during the presentation of the Marianas Tourism Education Council on Jan. 8, 2015. Sablan and Bansil shared about their jobs, the importance of good time and attendance, and the value of being hospitable to visitors.

IN MOTION TO DISMISS 155 CRIMINAL CHARGES Tinian Dynasty lawyer says US govt admits there was no criminal offense

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino has asked the court to dismiss the 155 charges filed against the company, saying the U.S. government admits that there was no criminal offense.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., asserted that counts 2-156 should be dismissed as the U.S. government concedes that incomplete preparation of a currency transaction report or CTR is not a criminal offense.

Berline said the U.S. government tries to negate the plain and express language of the second superseding indictment by claiming that counts 2-156 do not allege an offense of incomplete preparation. Specifically, the lawyer said, the U.S. government represents that counts 2-156 only charge "the offense of failure to file."

"A review of the second superseding indictment shows otherwise," he pointed out.

Berline said contrary to the U.S. government's assertions, counts 2-156 do not only charge a failure to file CTRs, the counts

include charges for the violation of incomplete preparation of the CTRs, which is not a criminal offense.

In May 2013, the U.S. government charged HKE with one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a CTR, and eight counts of causing a financial institution to fail to file a CTR. The indictment also contained a forfeiture count.

In September 2014, the U.S. government filed a superseding indictment charging HKE with one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a CTR and 155 counts of failure to file a CTR. It also contains one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. It also has a notice of forfeiture.

In November 2014, the U.S. government filed a second superseding indictment which contains one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a CTR, and 155 counts of failure to file a

CTR (2-156). It also contains one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. It has a notice of forfeiture.

The initial indictment had charged HKE and then-VIP services manager George Que and then-casino manager Tim Blyth with only 10 charges.

According to the indictment, HKE allowed gamblers at Tinian Dynasty to conduct transactions involving more than \$10,000 without filing CTRs with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN, from September 2009 to April 25, 2013.

Tinian Dynasty allegedly failed to file about 3,640 CTRs for cash transactions over \$10,000 as required by law. The total dollar amount of reportable currency transactions that were not filed is about \$1.38 million.

Que and Blyth had entered into a settlement deal with the U.S. government in exchange for the dismissal of the criminal charges against them. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



MIRROR IMAGE

Prior to taking his oath of office, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres takes a moment to check out his new official photo after having it hung for the first time at the Governor's Office. Torres and Gov. Eloy S. Inos were sworn in Monday at the first inauguration ceremony held on Capital Hill.

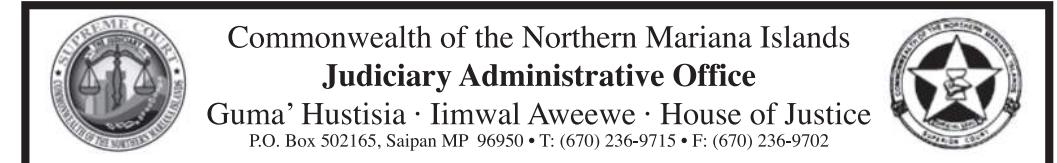
Tinian Hot Pepper Fest on Feb. 14-15

The 11th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held on Feb. 14-15, 2015, highlighting the island's famously potent "donne sali" pepper.

The event will be held at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose. Available hotels on island include Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorilyn's and Street Motel. Some hotels offer airport shuttle, as well. Air service is provided by Freedom Air and Star Marianas. The event is also co-spon-

sored by Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Activities will again include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances, and Hapi the Clown. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni sali* eating competition, itself. Festival times will be from 1pm to 10pm on Feb. 14 and from 10am to 10pm on Feb. 15.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 433-9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com. (*MVA*)



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

PRO SE CLIENT SERVICE ASSISTANT On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Manager of the Family Court or his/her designee. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assist Pro Se clients when they come to the Family Court Division seeking assistance in filing their case;
- Assist in the development and enhancement of the Family Court Pro Se Court Services program for family violence cases;
- Maintain and promote positive workflow with Victim Advocates and all other agencies involved in the processing and distribution of family protection cases / TRO (FP/TRO);
- Participate in court and special hearings for all family protection cases;
- Assist the courtroom clerks with docketing and scheduling of hearings for FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;
- Assist in the distribution of orders, pleadings and other documents in FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;
- Coordinate and schedule home assessments as well as process referral orders for those court clients referred to social mental health services;
- Conduct interviews of court clients and their families; analyze the information, identify possible problem areas, make recommendations concerning the case, and make referrals to other social service agencies;
- Input case information into the Justware Case Management System and the Lexis Nexus E-filing system;
- Attend the monthly Family Violence Task Force meetings;
- Assist in planning and coordination of domestic violence training conferences;
- Maintain and monitor the Victims of Crime Act formula grant program's goals and objectives which will include the preparation of quarterly reports, compilation of case statistics and processing of purchase requisitions, and;
- Adhere to and comply with all promulgated policies, standards and codes of ethical conduct;
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Client Service Coordinator should have High School Diploma or equivalent from an accredited college with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in social work, criminal justice, or related service, plus one (1) year of experience in clerical, data collection, or similar field. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

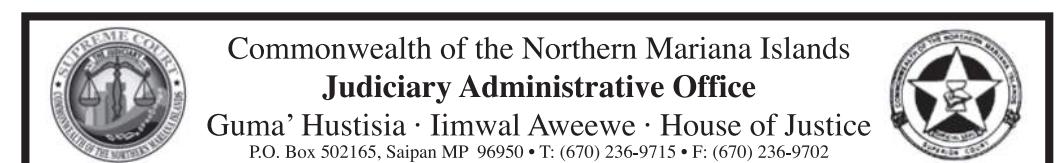
COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Salary will be \$18,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Michelle V. Guerrero
Human Resource/Administrative Officer
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

DEPUTY MARSHAL On the island of SAIPAN

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Director of Law Enforcement and Security in the Marshal Service Division on Saipan which involves the enforcement and execution of judicial orders and assigned law enforcement duties. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Performs enforcement and execution of court orders and service documents such as jury summons;
- Performs court security duties required for judicial proceedings, protection of justices, judges, court staff, clients, jurors, witnesses, and judicial facilities; assists in the operation of the court's security control monitoring systems;
- Conducts inspection and screening of all persons entering the courthouse and prohibits the entrance onto the court's premises of any items that are restricted or prohibited; provides the public with direction and information on all public services locations within the courthouse;
- Prepares written reports of service and non-service documents, incidents, and other reports as required;
- Performs prisoner handling while awaiting court hearings; escorts prisoners to courtrooms and to holding cells as directed;
- Has knowledge of and follows courtroom directives;
- Completes annually all required training including firearms; complies to all procedures relative to the proper use, maintenance, and security of government issued firearms; and
- Performs other duties on the courthouse premises as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent, a minimum of two (2) years experience in law enforcement and/or one year college level education in criminal justice or related field of study. Successful candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This is an ungraded position appointed and served at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. Salary will be \$16,652 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

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THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Guam places 8th in UOG Constitutional IQ Survey

After conducting a Constitution Day IQ survey in fall 2014, University of Guam Master of Public Administration students from the PA510: Administrative Thought class have found that Guam residents compared favorably to other states in knowledge about the U.S. Constitution, scoring higher than over 40 states including Florida, Michigan and Vermont. Comparing the scores, Guam placed eighth overall.

The class took on the survey as a special project after finding that Guam and other U.S. territories were not represented in a national Constitutional IQ survey conducted by <http://www.constitutionfacts.com>. The class felt it would be interesting to see how Guam would compare with the nationwide results. The class duplicated the survey and gathered a random sample of 200 participants.

"This project was a way for our graduate students to engage in Constitution Day 2014, have fun, and walk away with something worth talking about. The project yielded some very interesting results," said Dr. John Rivera, UOG MPA program chair.

Guam fared very well in

comparison to the individual states, placing eighth overall, with a score of 6.11 out of 10. California was the state with the highest average score of 6.69 with the same set of questions. Participants with postsecondary degrees or college experience seemed to be more knowledgeable about the Constitution.

The students noted some probable factors which may have influenced Guam's scores:

Guam's relatively young history of self-government as a U.S. territory.

A self-determination movement that encourages study in political self-rule—these ideas can translate to knowledge about the U.S. Constitution.

Many Guam residents have served in the armed forces or have worked for the federal government.

"We were pleased to see that Guam did comparatively well among the 50 states with this survey. More importantly, we found that Guam residents—no matter how deep their knowledge or familiarity of the U.S. Constitution—were eager to participate, revealing a keen interest in the intents and meanings

of the document itself," said Dan Brown, MPA student.

The class has contacted www.constitutionfacts.com to add Guam to the survey results. "What better way to commemorate Constitution Day than to add Guam to the data set," added Rivera.

Constitution Day is Sept. 17. To take the survey yourself, you may go to <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/?page=quiz.cfm>.

UOG Master of Public Administration graduate students who conducted the survey and developed the infographic were: Emmanuel Aguon, Miranda Alegre, Séa Alvarez, Tammy Amuan, Jacquelyn Anderson, Louise "Mae" Bautista, Amanda Blas, Daniel "Dan" Brown, Colleen Cabedo, Kathleen Duenas, Rachel Flores, Mario Garcia, Danny Gonzales, Restine Hernandez, Chenoa Hutchinson, Young Hoon "Tommy" Joo, Anthony Lifoifoi, Michael Paulino, William Piki, Lea Chelsea Quintilio, Maria Teresa "Dondi" Quintans, Abigail Reyes, John "Jack" Ruane, Tricia San Nicolas, and Tasha Wade. Their instructor was Dr. John Rivera. (UOG)

north as rip currents will be life threatening.

Northeast winds of 25 to 35 mph will persist through the day then diminish slightly to 20 to 30 mph through Thursday. Gusts may reach 40 mph within showers.

A wind advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those facing

2W Highway when two women crossed the road heading east. Nekai saw the two entering the inner lane, prodding him to step on the brake but the truck began to skid. As he was getting closer, Zhang let go off her companion's hand and attempted to beat the car, heading straight into its path. The second female stopped and turned back.

January 14, 2005

Labor reverses denial of worker's permit

The Department of Labor's Hearing Office recently ordered that the labor permit application for a nonresident worker be processed after the worker appealed an earlier denial issued by the director. Hearing officer Jerry Cody, however, ruled that the application be processed only after the worker's employer pays the fine imposed on her. The employer, Mengrang Haruo, is required to pay \$150 for filing the application late. The worker, Diana G. Eligado, previously worked on Rota before her work permit expired on Aug. 26, 2004. Eligado was allowed 45 days to transfer to another employer. She managed to do this but her application was filed by her employer five days after the deadline, Oct. 10, 2004.

Third suspect in drug case pleads 'not guilty'

Carl Cabrera, a Guam resident who allegedly conspired with two Saipan policemen in peddling illegal drugs that were believed to be part of stolen evidence, contested the criminal case against him when he appeared in Saipan's federal court yesterday. Cabrera pleaded "not guilty" to a charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute at least five grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride, commonly known as ice, sometime in 2003 during his arraignment yesterday, days after the Federal

Constitution Day 2014

What were they asked?

Here are the questions and answers, and the percent of respondents who got the answer right.

What was our country's first Constitution called?

53% said the Articles of Confederation

Laws for the U.S. are made by...

70% said Congress

The longest possible time a person can serve as president is...

16% said 10 years.

A man accused of a crime in court has the right to...

83% said hear the witnesses against him.

Invoking the Fifth Amendment means an accused man...

69% said refuses to testify against himself.

Out first vice-president was...

58% said John Adams.

The Bill of Rights is...

67% answered the First Ten Amendments.

If neither the president nor the vice-president can serve, the position would be filled by...

51% said the Speaker of the House.

The major department head who is appointed by the president to deal with foreign countries is the...

63% said Secretary of State.

The president is elected if he...

81% said wins a majority of the electoral votes.

The Older the Better!

Respondents over 51 years old did best with the highest average score. Respondents ages 18 to 35 years old had the lowest average score.

Contributors

Emmanuel Aguon, Miranda Alegre, Sea Alvarez, Tammy Amuan, Jacquelyn Anderson, Louise "Mae" Bautista, Amanda Blas, Daniel "Dan" Brown, Colleen Cabedo, Kathleen Duenas, Rachel Flores, Mario Garcia, Danny Gonzales, Restine Hernandez, Chenoa Hutchinson, Young Hoon "Tommy" Joo, Anthony Lifoifoi, Michael Paulino, William Piki, Lea Chelsea Quintilio, Maria Teresa "Dondi" Quintans, Abigail Reyes, John "Jack" Ruane, Tricia San Nicolas and Tasha Wade

Course Instructor: Dr. John Rivera

Highest Average Score

With an average score of 6.11 out of 10, Guam placed 8th in comparison to the top 10 states with the highest average scores.

CA	6.69
OK	6.61
NY	6.51
TX	6.46
DC	6.45
VA	6.33
IL	6.14
GU	6.11
FL	6.01
MI	5.98
VT	5.96



Public warned of high surf, strong winds

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, a north and northeast swell will produce hazardous surf along north facing reefs through today, Wednesday.

A high surf advisory remains in effect until 6pm today along north facing reefs.

Surf will be hazardous at 7 to 9 feet today. Surf is expected to fall below hazardous limits by this evening.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday.

Northeast winds at 25 to 30 knots and combined seas of 10 to 12 feet will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft through Wednesday. Winds and seas will diminish slightly on Thursday but will still be hazardous.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those facing

north as rip currents will be life threatening.

Northeast winds of 25 to 35 mph will persist through the day then diminish slightly to 20 to 30 mph through Thursday. Gusts may reach 40 mph within showers.

A wind advisory remains in effect until 6pm Thursday.

Winds of 30 mph or more are expected. Winds this strong can make driving difficult especially for high profile vehicles such as a truck with a shipping container on it. Use extra caution. Bring small loose items indoors. Take down canopies and awnings that are susceptible to wind damage. (HSEM)

Guam delegation to travel to Manila for pope's visit

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A delegation from Guam is traveling to Manila for Pope Francis' visit there.

The pope is expected to arrive in the Philippines on Thursday and stay through next Monday.

The *Pacific Daily News* re-

ports a delegation of seminarians and priests left Guam for the Philippines last week for a retreat. They will head to Manila for the pope's visit afterward.

The five seminarians come from the St. John Paul the Great Archdiocesan Seminary of Guam.

Father Mike Crisostomo says the delegation worked hard to raise money to see the pope ever since his visit to the Philippines was announced in November.

The Philippines is the largest Roman Catholic country in Asia and the third-largest in the world.

Bureau of Investigation arrested him on Guam. Chief Judge Alex R. Munson allowed Cabrera's temporary release on an unsecured \$25,000 bail. The judge imposed a curfew on Cabrera, who shall stay at his residence in Yigo, Guam from 6pm to 6am.

January 14, 2007

Ex-convict faces new charges for punching wife

An ex-convict is facing new charges for beating up his wife again at their residence in Upper Miha in Garapan. Teksiter T. Sachuo, 39, is being charged with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. A \$10,000 cash bail was imposed for the defendant's temporary liberty. Sachuo's preliminary hearing was set for tomorrow. Police said that on Jan. 8, 2007 the defendant, his wife, and their teenaged son were at home. The son asked Sachuo if he could buy him school supplies. The defendant replied, "No." The wife asked Sachuo why he could not buy. The defendant got mad and yelled at her to shut up.

Tax collections drop by \$5.8M

Tax collections in fiscal year 2006 ran short of projection by \$5.8 million, despite the CNMI's recovery of \$6 million in "cover-over" taxes from the federal government. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reported to the Legislature that FY2006 tax revenues reached only \$156 million, much less than the government's projected collection of \$162 million. Fitial said that the decline was caused by "lower than projected collections in garment user fees, excise taxes, and wage and salary tax, as garment industry sales declined at an accelerated rate. Also, the JAL pullout that took place during the year had significant adverse impact on the tourism industry, which affected business gross revenue receipt and employment."

Flashback: A look back at past years' headlines

January 14, 2003

Jury selection on Benavente case begins

The Superior Court began jury selection yesterday in the controversial accidental shooting of a child involving Anthony T. Benavente—the brother of the lieutenant governor—and six other relatives. At this initial stage, the case promises to be fraught with human drama. The gallery was jam-packed, dominated mostly by the defendants' clan, while lawyers for both the defense and the prosecution seemed to be gearing up for a showdown. Even before the trial proper could begin, the Supreme Court has already been dragged into the case, when it was asked to stop the trial proceedings due to Associate Judge David Wiseman's decision to deny the prosecution's request to grant immunity to two of the accused so they could be witnesses against the other defendants.

Woman hit by car, critical

A female pedestrian was rushed to the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Clinic after sustaining serious injuries from a road accident in Gualo Rai Saturday night. Chen Han Zhang, 19, sustained fractures in the head and other injuries in the body when a truck driven by Clifford Q. Nekai hit her around 8:12pm Saturday at 2W Gualo Rai. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lt. Pete Muna said Nekai was traveling north along

Comment period reopened on ESA plan for 23 species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will reopen the public comment period for an additional 30 days on the proposed rule to protect 23 species in Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Service will hold two public hearings and four public information meetings during this time. These additional meetings and hearings will allow all interested parties additional time and opportunity to comment on the proposed rule.

The reopened 30-day public comment period will allow the public to review and comment on the proposal and provide additional information. All relevant information will be considered and addressed in the

» Agency will hold public meetings and hearings in Guam and the CNMI

Service's final listing determination. The public comment period will close on Feb. 11, 2015.

Public hearings provide a formal, structured opportunity for interested parties to verbally express comments or to submit written comments on the proposed rule. All verbal and written comments will be included in the final record and considered during the decision making process. Public hearings involve official testimony only, and do not allow for questions. The public information meetings allow for a free flow of information between Service experts and members of the public.

The Service will hold the following public meetings and

public hearings:

GUAM: Jan. 27 – 5pm-6pm informational meeting/6pm-8pm public hearing. University of Guam, Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building, Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129, UOG Station, Mangilao, Guam 96923

SAIPAN: Jan. 28 – 5pm-6pm informational meeting/6pm-8pm public hearing. Multi-Purpose Center (Saipan), Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan.

ROTA: Jan. 29 – 6pm-8pm informational meeting. Sinapalo Elementary School Cafeteria (Rota), Sinapalo I, Songsong Village, Rota, MP 96951.

TINIAN: Jan. 31 – 9am-11am informational meeting. Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952

The Service originally proposed to protect these 23 species under the Endangered Species Act on Oct. 1, 2014 (*Federal Register* 59364/Vol. 79/ No.190R). The 23 species proposed for listing comprises 14 plants, four tree snails, two butterflies, one insectivorous bat, one skink, and one damselfly. Two of the plant species—*Cycas micronesica* and *Tabernaemontana rotensis*—are proposed for threatened status,



Cycas micronesica photo courtesy A. Gawel.

USFWS PACIFIC

the other plants and animals are proposed as endangered. The Service is seeking new information from the public and the scientific community that will assist the agency in making a final determination.

Of the 23 species proposed for listing:

Five plants are endemic to the island of Guam—*Eugenia bryanii*, *Hedyotis megalantha* (paudeo), *Phyllanthus safordii*, *Psychotria malaspinae* (aplokating-palaean), and *Tinospora homosepala*.

Eight plants are known from Guam and the CNMI—*Bulbophyllum guamense* (cabello halumtano), *Dendrobium guamense*, *Heritiera longipeti-*

olata (ufa-halumtano), *Maesa walkeri*, *Nervilia jacksoniae*, *Solanum guamense* (berenghenas halumtano), *Tabernaemontana rotensis*, and *Tuberolabium guamense*.

One plant, *Cycas micronesica* (fadang), occurs in Guam, the CNMI, Palau and Yap.

Three animals are island endemics—the Guam tree snail (*Partula radiolata*; akaleha) is endemic to Guam, the Rota blue damselfly (*Ischnura luta*) is endemic to Rota, and Langford's tree snail (*Partula langfordi*; akaleha) is endemic to Aguiguan.

The remaining six animals are known from both Guam and islands in the CNMI—the Pacific

sheath-tailed bat (*Emballonura semicaudata rotensis*; liyang), Slevin's skink (*Emoia slevini*; guali'ek halomtano), the Mariana eight-spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis*), the Mariana wandering butterfly (*Vagrans egistina*), the humped tree snail (*Partula gibba*; akaleha), and the fragile tree snail (*Samoana fragilis*; akaleha).

The 23 species being considered for federal listing face current and ongoing threats, including habitat loss and degradation due to urbanization and development; competition with nonnative plants and animals; predation by nonnative animals; climate change; inadequate existing regulatory mechanisms to prevent the introduction and spread of nonnative plants and animals; ordnance and live-fire from military training; recreational vehicles; and small numbers of individuals and populations.

More information and copies of the proposed rule are available at <http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/>. For further information contact: Kristi Young, Deputy Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850; telephone (808) 792-9400 or fax (808) 792-9581. (USFWS)

United Airlines offers bonus-miles promo for premium-cabin travelers

- » Members may earn up to 12,000 bonus award miles per segment
- » Offer available for United, United Express and partner-operated flights

CHICAGO—United Airlines announced Friday the start of a special bonus-miles promotion, enabling MileagePlus members to significantly boost the award miles they earn for choosing to fly the airline's premium cabins.

Beginning today and for travel completed through Feb. 28, members may earn up to 12,000 bonus award miles per flight segment, in addition to base earnings and other bonus miles they typically earn.

	Long-Haul and p.s. Flights		Short-Haul Flights	
MileagePlus Status	F, A, J, C, or D Fare Class	Z or P Fare Class	F, A, J, C, or D Fare Class	Z or P Fare Class
Premier 1K and Higher	12,000	3,500	1,000	500
Premier Platinum, Gold and Silver	6,000	1,000	500	250
Member	3,000	--	250	--

Long-haul flights include those of at least 3,000 miles and United's p.s. Premium Service between New York JFK and Los Angeles and between New York JFK and San Francisco.

Customers who purchase premium-cabin tickets for United and United Express-operated flights and United-marketed flights operated by partners Air Canada, ANA, Austrian, Brussels Airlines, Copa, Lufthansa and Swiss may take advantage of the promotion.

"With this offer, we are pleased to begin the New Year by further rewarding our premium-cabin customers for their loyalty and their value," said Praveen Sharma, United's vice president of loyalty.

Members do not have to register for the promotion; United will add the bonus miles to their MileagePlus accounts after they have completed a qualifying flight. For more information, visit www.united.com/newyearbonus. (**United**)

US provides \$5.3M Compact payments in Dec.

In December, the FSM Department of Finance received Compact Grant Assistance payments from the U.S. government totaling \$5.3 million. These payments were for Compact Sector Grants, Carry-Over Sector Grants, and Supplementary Education Grants:

- Education, \$1,844,885
- Health, \$1,802,614
- Supplementary Education Grant, \$994,975
- Public Sector Capacity Building, \$181,355
- Infrastructure, \$141,964
- Private Sector Development, \$131,305
- Environment, \$122,047
- Enhanced Reporting and Accountability, \$96,463
- Total Amount, \$5,315,608
- This amount is provided to the States of the FSM as follows:
- Chuuk, \$2,454,644
- Kosrae, \$687,000
- Pohnpei, \$1,450,127
- Yap, \$723,837 (**U.S. Embassy Kolonia**)

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—All international flights to the small island nation of Tonga were cancelled Tuesday after a volcanic eruption sent plumes of ash into the sky.

Carriers are hoping at least some flights to the Pacific archipelago that's home to about 106,000 people will resume Wednesday.

Tonga Airports Ltd. Chief Executive Viliami Ma'ake said all flights arriving from, and departing to, Australia, Fiji and New Zealand had been cancelled due to ash in the atmosphere.

He said domestic services were continuing as scheduled after being disrupted earlier

in the week.

Brad Scott, a volcanologist at New Zealand agency GNS Science, said volcanic activity has been recorded for several weeks in a stretch of ocean and small islands about 60 kilometers (35 miles) north of the capital, Nuku'alofa.

He said he believes the volcano may have started beneath the ocean's surface and grown until it reached the surface, essentially creating a new island. But he said details of the eruption still remain unclear.

Scott said Tonga has asked New Zealand for technical assistance, and that GNS plans to send two volcanologists to assess what's happening as soon

as flights resume.

A short-lived but powerful 2009 volcanic eruption in the ocean area created some more landmass, he said. One of the things scientists want to establish is whether the latest eruption is related.

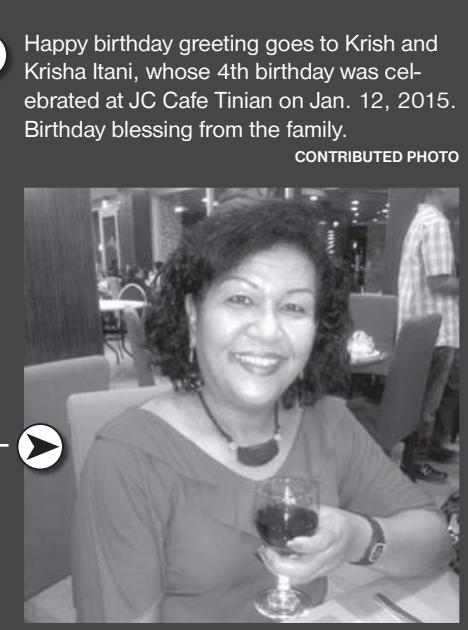
Virgin Australia spokeswoman Libby Armstrong said it had cancelled a scheduled Sydney to Tonga flight Monday and a Tonga to New Zealand flight Tuesday. She said it had scheduled additional flights for Wednesday and that the weather forecast looked promising.

Air New Zealand said in a statement that a Monday flight from Auckland to Tonga was diverted to Samoa and later

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy fabulous birthday to beautiful and fierce Terry L. Kisa! Thank you for all that you do for our family, you're our heart. We wish you good health, happiness and success. Lots of love from Shawn, Vanessa and Shalei Terrie.



Happy birthday greeting goes to Krish and Krishna Itani, whose 4th birthday was celebrated at JC Cafe Tinian on Jan. 12, 2015. Birthday blessing from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matson lowers fuel surcharge

Continuing decreases in bunker fuel prices has prompted Matson to drop its fuel-related surcharge by 4 percentage points.

The decrease takes the surcharge from 35.5 percent to 31.5 percent for its Hawaii service, from 36 percent to 32 percent for Guam/Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands service and from 41 percent to 37 percent for Micronesia service, the company said. The decrease goes into effect on Sunday, according to the company.

Matson says the downward adjustment to the fuel surcharge would result in a reduction in shipping costs ranging from \$80 to \$140 per container for most customers.

When the decrease goes into effect, the fuel surcharge for Hawaii and Guam/Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands services will have dropped 11 percentage points since Nov. 2, 2014. (*West Hawaii Today*)

Opinion

Hara Adai!

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EDITORIAL

A massive show of solidarity in France

The international community joined hands on the streets of France on Sunday in an overwhelming show of support for free expression. The sheer numbers—millions across French cities, including more than 1.2 million in Paris—were as impressive as the solidarity demonstrated by the dozens of world leaders who participated.

France is still reeling from three days of terror that left 17 dead, plus three Islamist gunmen, following an attack on the offices of a satirical magazine, and another targeting a Jewish neighborhood. Sunday's turnout exceeded the marches after France's liberation from Nazi occupation in World War II.

The comparison between the Nazis and the current enemy should not be lost on anyone. The leaders who marched with arms interlocked effectively declared that it's time for action against jihadi violence and oppression. The massive outpouring was remarkable for its symbolism, but for it to have lasting meaning, words must be matched by deeds and hard choices.

Noteworthy among the leaders were Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, whose sharpest differences center on the use of terrorism and military violence to solve political differences. Also present were NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, British Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, King Abdullah II of Jordan and various other European, African and Arab leaders.

Nearly every country represented has experienced some form of jihadi violence. The mood of the marches conveyed the sentiment that enough is enough. The world cannot be cowed into submission by a small band of Islamists who believe that guns and bombs are a proper substitute for persuasion when the power of their warped ideas is insufficient.

This show of international solidarity marks a new opportunity for the world to restore focus on the true enemy among us: violent Islamists who believe their religious views supersede the rights and freedoms of all others.

Thirteen years ago, the 9/11 attacks united the world in a similar show of solidarity and outrage. In the intervening years, however, that unity has dissipated—even though the threat has not.

The U.S.-led war on terrorism has been a chief target of criticism in France and other European countries. It's both encouraging and frustrating to hear French Prime Minister Manuel Valls declare, as he did Saturday, a "war against terrorism, against jihadism, against radical Islam, against everything that is aimed at breaking fraternity, freedom, solidarity."

France soon will discover the murky world that has confronted U.S. decision-makers ever since 9/11. Fighting this enemy is messy, complicated and rarely without controversy. Let Sunday's display of unity be the starting point for a new international resolve based more on cooperation than criticism.

(c)2015 The Dallas Morning News



The world must now confront Salafi teachings

On Friday, the day French police killed the terrorists who attacked Charlie Hebdo, the liberal Saudi blogger Raif Badawi was publicly flogged in Jeddah for insulting Islam.

The two cases are bookends.

The terrorists, who apparently had links to al-Qaeda and ISIS, murdered 10 journalists in the name of Islam because the journalists "insulted" the prophet Muhammad. Badawi, a brave human-rights activist, was sentenced to 15 years by a Saudi court—and 50 lashes once a week for 20 weeks—because he critiqued the way Saudi clerics interpret Islam.

The Saudis export their harsh Wahhabi version of Sunni Islam, which disdains or denounces other religions or variants of Islam. The terrorists just take that ideology one step forward, killing for the faith.

As the debate begins about lessons to be learned from the attacks in France, I'd urge people to focus on the blogger Badawi along with the French victims. He fell afoul of the extreme Saudi religious ideology that, like virulent cancer cells, has spread through many parts of the Muslim world.

Badawi's website was called "Free Saudi Liberals," and his goal was to create a public forum to discuss how to modernize Saudi Islam. After his arrest in 2012, he appealed an initial seven-year sentence and 600 lashes, but the judge made the punishment harsher. Then his lawyer was sentenced by an antiterrorism court to 15 years in jail.

The irony is that the Saudis denounce al-Qaeda and are frightened by ISIS, which has threatened their regime and pledged to take over the holiest Muslim cities, Mecca and Medina. Belatedly, the Saudi rulers cracked down on government foundations that fund Islamist terror groups, and they have donated \$100 million to the United Nations to fund a counterterrorism agency.

But the Saudis' rivalry with Iran has led them to fund almost any Sunni Islamist group in Syria willing to fight the Tehran-backed regime of Bashar al-Assad.

Moreover, the Saudis refuse to recognize that their extreme, literalist version of Islam underlies the terrorists' thinking.

Most Muslims do not embrace Wahhabism, a variant of the Salafi doctrine whose adherents seek to live like the earliest Muslims. So, for decades, the Saudi kingdom has spent hundreds of millions of dollars proselytizing across the Muslim world. It has funded religious schools and textbooks from Central Asia through the Arab world to Pakistan and beyond, sending out imams who spread its intolerant thinking. Tens of thousands of Egyptians and Syrians, who came to work in Saudi Arabia, also absorbed Salafist ideas.

Private Saudis still fund satellite TV channels that are watched throughout the Arab world, where Salafi sheikhs denounce all infidels and spew out hatred toward the West.

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



Meantime, at home, the Saudi government has made only the feeblest attempts to cleanse textbooks of diatribes against other religious groups, or to broaden the religion-heavy curriculum. And, as the Badawi case shows, the regime is unwilling to permit any open discussion of religion at home.

All this money and rigid religious propaganda have had a powerful impact. At a time when the Arab world is in disarray and government corruption is rampant, when the "Arab spring" revolutions have failed, many youths are looking for new answers. So are alienated young Muslims in France and elsewhere in Europe.

These youths need only look to the Internet or take a trip to Syria or Yemen, where they can learn to put the supremacist precepts of Salafi ideology into practice, seeking to overthrow Arab governments or attack the West. In 2003, according to the State Department, the six terrorist groups causing the most casualties globally all operated in Muslim countries. Indeed, most of the victims of Islamist terrorism are Muslims.

The Islamic world is in a poor position to fight back. The Sunni world has no pope or grand ayatollah with the clout and legitimacy to counter Salafi religious propaganda.

"There are some moderate people within the Sunni tradition calling for reform," says Zainab al-Suwaij, executive director of the American Islamic Congress, whose grandfather was a leading Iraqi cleric, "but they are small groups and they don't have the power."

Badawi tried to promote reform, and it brought him the lash.

Many Arab leaders denounced the Charlie Hebdo murders, but their legitimacy is shaky. Egypt's president, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, called for a "revolution" in Islam to reform outdated interpretations of the faith, but he will have trouble implementing it. And to reinterpret the faith, he must rely on the 1,000-year-old Al-Azhar University, a government religious institution that no longer has the broad clout it once had as a center of Islamic teaching.

Washington and its European allies can no longer wait around for Saudi Arabia (or other Arab states or Pakistan) to root out the Salafist ideology that inspires terrorists. It is past time to pressure countries that are supposedly our allies to stop dispensing this ideological poison. The flogging of Raif Badawi, as much as the Paris murders, signals a threat that endangers us all.

Occasion: Inauguration 2015

There's nothing Pollyannaish in the inauguration of a new set of elected officials. The old guys are still around carrying old issues gift-wrapped in new cover. The casino cabal is back in both chambers, eyeing to improve their "tiptoe" into an art while new ones brave finding their way around.

The guys and gals looked their best and took their "oath of office." The inaugural event is like the first day of class when you're ready to make all As, yank the intramural trophy in debate and sports competition from your opponent, then show your report card at year's end.

The propped up inaugural prose was intended to lift our hopes, though we know the score thoroughly: suspect hope versus reality. It isn't all milk and honey but a day where hope springs eternal. Behind the assertive hope is "we the people" who look forward to brighter days.

The commitment to revive the 902 Talks is a hopeful start, given the persistent fiscal crisis at home. With a woefully dizzying economic depression where "stagnancy" has become a broken record, a step in this direction is imperative. Must demonstrate commitment to good governance in the usual spout of indigenous self-government.

Even I wish to take a sabbatical of sort to simply watch tidal shifts go in and out of the lagoon. Let it be and let's see what the new set of elected officials could do during the first year beyond stagnancy and redundancy. Must honor your true north, especially in these troubled times. Start by solving basic infrastructure deficit to cure fiscal deficit!

I've been to eight inaugurations and have listened to towering speeches on a myriad of issues that quickly faded into the horizon. Basically none of the hopeful promises made were

factually accomplished nor did any of it last at least through the inaugural ball.

Imagine if each promise could be placed in a savings account since 1978. We'd be filthy rich rocking and rolling 24/7. For now it's all rolling and dangerously wobbly trying to keep our balance while puking on the deck.

No worries. It's all part and whole of the fallacy of a democracy that is at best protracted, at worst frustrating. Each of you is tasked to improve salaries and wages, jobs for the jobless and opportunities for upward mobility based on real academic and professional competency versus Pinocchio's longish nose.

The torch to improve the lot of the multitude is officially on your side of the court. Run with it and bring us closer to brighter break of dawn. We'd be waiting at the goal line. Si Iku.

From JR's notebook

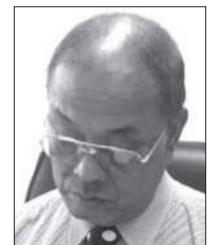
I'm encouraging open and civil discussions among our people in order to promote an understanding of issues before us. We begin by learning to separate people from issues. In other words, stay clear of personal attacks or *ad hominem*. State your agreement or disagreement on, e.g., an issue one may have raised in his presentation.

It's a healthy exercise so we get to hear from our people what their views are on issues that matter to them individually or collectively. Not saying your piece is itself self-betrayal. In my case, I'd like to explore your point of view. It fosters healthy debate and greater clarity on matters of importance affecting our community.

In a provocative article "The Argumentative Jew," author Leon Wieseltier said, "...disagreement is not only real, it is also ideal, at least in the unredeemed world, which is the only

world we know.

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



"In the millennia of disputations, even mistaken opinions are not without legitimacy. Minority opinions are not obsolete opinions: They are preserved alongside majority opinions because their reasoning may one day be useful again."

"As long as argument rages, we accept different perspectives and become more thoughtful. In our constitutional government, appeals about the law go all the way to the Supreme Court, righting wrongs, inspiring the rethinking of cherished positions."

"High school debate teams offer young people one of the most rigorous ways to test their reasoning when they learn to defend both sides of a question, even if they have a firm belief in only one side. They learn how to see the flaws in their own arguments. In brief, let's shift from the usual aspersion to issues. It's important to learn how to agree and disagree in healthy fashion."

"Let's say you disagree with me, I definitely welcome your viewpoint in that it's good to find out your point of view. Disagreements must take to another level of discussion where clarity is reached why we disagree. It's a healthy exercise!"

Millennials' surprise: There isn't an app to solve all problems

By JOHN MCCARRON
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Poverty? Isn't there an app for that?

None of my college journalism students has asked me that one--yet. But I wouldn't be all that surprised if one of them did.

Millennials, it seems, have very different ideas about how to solve urban problems. And unlike the notions of this retirement-age New Dealer, their solutions typically don't include raising taxes or expanding the reach of some government agency.

This is, I think, a fast-evolving yet underappreciated phenomenon in American life and politics. The millennials, roughly defined as those born between 1985 and 2000, are so smitten with mobile technology and its social and economic applications that they see tech as the solution to just about everything.

Need a cheap ride? Punch-up Uber on the iPhone.

Hungry? Go to grubhub.com.

Their universe of digital conveniences is extensive and extending. When she needs a movie listing or a sports score, my 20-something daughter would no more pick up an ink-flecked sheet of dried tree mulch (aka a newspaper) than she would scan the horizon for smoke signals.

But is this new way of thinking birthing a new kind of politics?

Requiring more of our cops and of ourselves

Maybe right now isn't the best time to bring this up. After Ferguson, after the non-indictment for the death of Eric Garner, after the assassination of two New York City policemen and the wounding of at least two more, and during the current standoff between New York policemen and the city's mayor, Bill de Blasio, maybe it's not the best time to support the idea of requiring all policemen, as a standard part of their uniforms, to wear video cameras that will record their actions.

Tensions between the police and the public are inflamed in places besides New York, and they manifest themselves in issues such as racially based stop-and-frisk policies and the excessive militarization of police forces.

At worst, these tensions lead to shootings. Sometimes policemen are killed; sometimes members of the public die.

In general, my sympathies are with the police. We ask them to do some of our society's most disagreeable and difficult work, and we don't reward them particularly well with money or respect. Sometimes we treat them with contempt, but we're quick to call on them when we need help.

Other jobs may be more dangerous, but few require such constant and intimate contact with the most depraved facets of our culture, American citizens at their worst. It has to wear on policemen, over time.

Furthermore, virtually all of my personal contact with policemen--fortunately, it's limited--has been characterized by their courtesy and professionalism.

I think it is. And the new digital mindset is, at its core, libertarian. Which is to say: very liberal on social issues such as gay marriage and legalized pot, yet very skeptical of government efforts to regulate the economy or levy taxes.

So they're trending toward the Republican side of the ballot.

This was driven home in November's election when the two Chicago wards most associated with upwardly mobile millennials--downtown's 42nd Ward and Lincoln Park's 43rd Ward--carried, in the aggregate, for Gov.-elect Bruce Rauner.

Normally it has been the white ethnic and blue-collar wards on the city's Far Northwest and Southwest sides that stray from the Democratic reservation. This time it was the 43rd--the same lakefront precincts that once elected independent Ald. Bill Singer and Ald. Marty Oberman--that delivered nearly as many votes for the Republican Rauner as for the independent-minded Democratic incumbent Pat Quinn.

Downtown's 42nd Ward--the city's fastest-growing neighborhood where millennials have been leasing high-rise apartments from Harrison Street to North Avenue--carried outright for Rauner, the only ward to do so in a city that went almost 4-to-1 for Quinn.

So what's going on here?

My take is that we're witnessing an emerging force, not just in Chicago but in national politics. They are the young digital libertarians. They think there's an Easy Button for just about everything, and they don't get why older folks aren't pushing theirs.

Of course, I'm a middle class white guy who never speeds and is always at home long before the bars close.

On the other hand, my students, especially Hispanic and African-American guys, tell a different story. They insist that the police regularly single them out for attention and treat them with rudeness.

The truth must lie somewhere between their experience and mine. Wearable video cameras on every policeman might help determine where, precisely, it lies and may help neutralize some of the tension between the police and ordinary citizens.

Some evidence indicates that cameras work. In April 2013, the New York Times reported on an experiment in the Rialto, CA, police department. Half of the 54 uniformed officers were randomly assigned to wear cameras each week. During the first 12 months of the experiment complaints against officers dropped by 88 percent. And the use of force by officers declined by 60 percent.

The findings in this study are based on small numbers, but they make sense. People behave differently in the presence of a camera.

But what about privacy? Citizens of a certain age remember George Orwell's "1984," the depiction of a dystopia where every action is under constant observation by Big Brother.

But the Big Brother ship has already sailed. Given the extent to which our lives are already documented and exposed by video, often entirely voluntarily, it seems strange to draw the line at cameras that could have a very positive effect on relations between the police and the public.

Still, requiring policemen to wear video cameras tends to make

What's more, they don't like the way we baby boomers have saddled their futures with debt. So they're renting instead of buying, wise in the knowledge they'd also be buying, via property taxes, a big slice of their parents' public pension liabilities.

And they're maneuvering politically, with privatization ideas, to avoid responsibility for our Social Security time bomb.

I get their angst but can't say I buy their approach. There's a reason why services like common carriage (planes, trains, cabs, etc.) are closely regulated; a reason why every unemployed Joe Blow with a jalopy ought not be allowed to take Aunt Mabel to the airport. And though I'm sorry about all that debt, the problem won't be solved by allowing more and more taxpayers to sneak away through offshore and online loopholes.

But that's just this old-timer's opinion. The future is being courted by a new generation, one that helped elect Rauner for governor and will try to nominate Rand Paul for president.

They do have some good ideas. Technology and freedom can and will solve many of our problems.

But not all of them.

For the toughest ones, the ones involving compassion and difficult choices, there will be no app.

John McCarron teaches, consults and writes on urban affairs. He wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

By JOHN M. CRISP

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, teaches in the English Department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. Readers may send him email at jcrist@delmar.edu.



them look like the bad guys, implying that we have to keep an electronic watch on them. What can we give them in return?

Maybe we could stop complaining when cities use cameras to control red light running at intersections, relieving policemen to devote their time and energy more valuably elsewhere.

For that matter, when it comes to traffic, we are a nation of law-breakers, and some of our lawlessness could be controlled electronically. Here's an example: I regularly drive a toll road that has the nation's highest speed limit, 85 mph. Still, some drivers speed.

Every few miles I pass an electronic station that automatically deducts a toll from my account. It could just as easily deduct an extra toll--a fine, really--for passing between toll stations at a rate that exceeds 85 mph. Of course, I can hear the objections already.

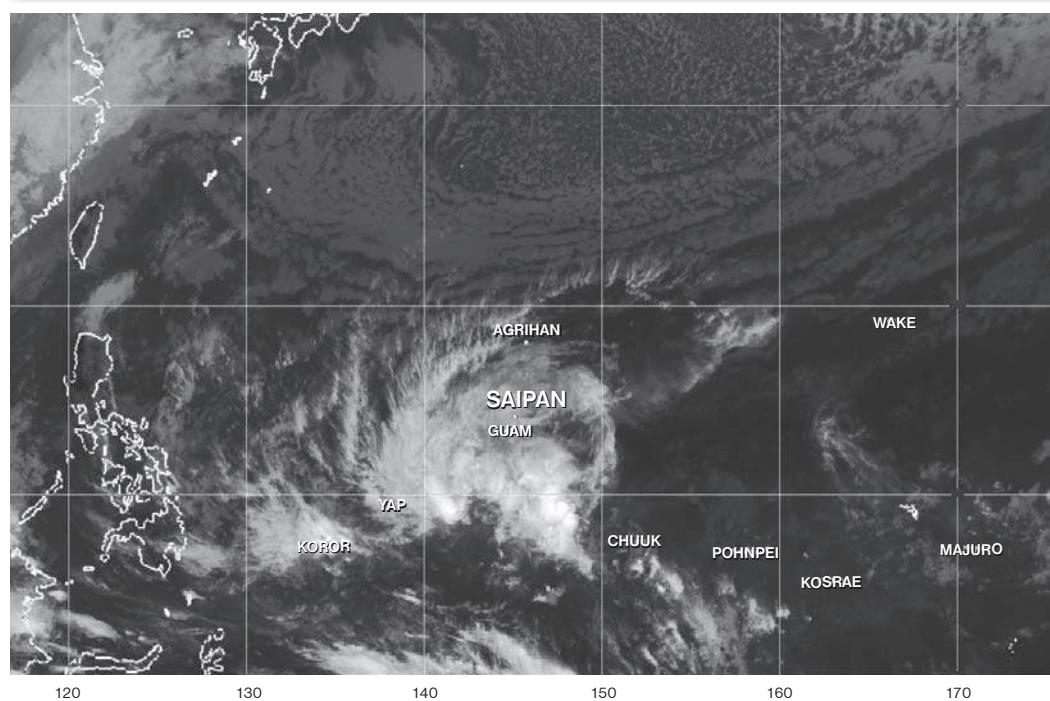
But if we expect policemen to allow us to monitor their behavior with video cameras, shouldn't we be willing to use technology to monitor our own?

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A well-defined tropical disturbance centered about 350 miles south-southwest of Guam and 275 miles east of Yap near 9N143W is moving to the west near 10 mph. A near equatorial trough extends from 5N130E to just south of Palau to the disturbance. The trough then runs southeast to 1N149E. Scattered thunderstorms are observed within 250 miles of the north quadrant of the disturbance and 400 miles of the eastern quadrant. Isolated thunderstorms are noted just north of the trough axis with one cluster of thunderstorms near Palau. A 90 mile-wide band of overcast low clouds. The remnant of a shear line is focused over Guam and Rota and extends 600 miles to the east-northeast. An isolated thunderstorm is embedded within the band 325 miles east-northeast of Guam. Broken high clouds are streaming from the disturbance centered to the south and blanket Guam to Anatahan to the north of Anatahan. A mix of stable stratocumulus with some cumulus prevails to 21N giving way to a shallow and weak front running along 25N162E, 22N150E, and 21N140E. The front is racing to the east-southeast at 40 mph near 25N and is moving south near 20 mph elsewhere. Weak trade wind convergence is found over eastern Micronesia. Scattered cumulus with isolated towering cumulus cells are observed between 4N and 10N east of 160E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia		
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼80

Tides		
Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼80

Around the Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼62
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲47 ▼22
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲67 ▼49
Honolulu	Sunny	▲80 ▼64
London	Showers	▲49 ▼39
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲71 ▼50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼71
Melbourne	Showers	▲75 ▼59
Miami	Showers	▲80 ▼68
New York	Sunny	▲26 ▼17
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲51 ▼42
Paris	Rain	▲50 ▼42
Pusan	Cloudy	▲53 ▼35
Rome	Sunny	▲61 ▼47
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲53 ▼33
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲41 ▼25
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼41
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▼23

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	12:32 AM	12:32 AM
Thursday	1:22 AM	1:16 PM
Friday	2:14 AM	2:03 PM
Saturday	3:09 AM	2:55 PM
Sunday	4:07 AM	3:51 PM

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN				
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5,				

Business

As cheap gas shifts car buyers' habits, automakers power on

DETROIT (AP)—Inside the auto show here, automakers are showing off electric and other vehicles designed to cut our dependence on fossil fuels. Outside, car buyers are paying the lowest prices in years for carbon-based fuels.

That dichotomy has the industry scrambling to sell alternative vehicles and buyers making choices that seemed impractical just a short time ago.

Some of the cars that will tease visitors to the North American International Auto Show include a new all-electric Chevrolet Bolt, hybrid and plug-in versions of the Hyundai Sonata and other vehicles aimed at easing pain at the fuel pump.

But cheap gas prices across the country, driven by a surprising plunge in oil prices, are tempting potential buyers away from the small and economical and toward comparatively more gas-guzzling trucks and SUVs. That's leading automakers to take the long view,



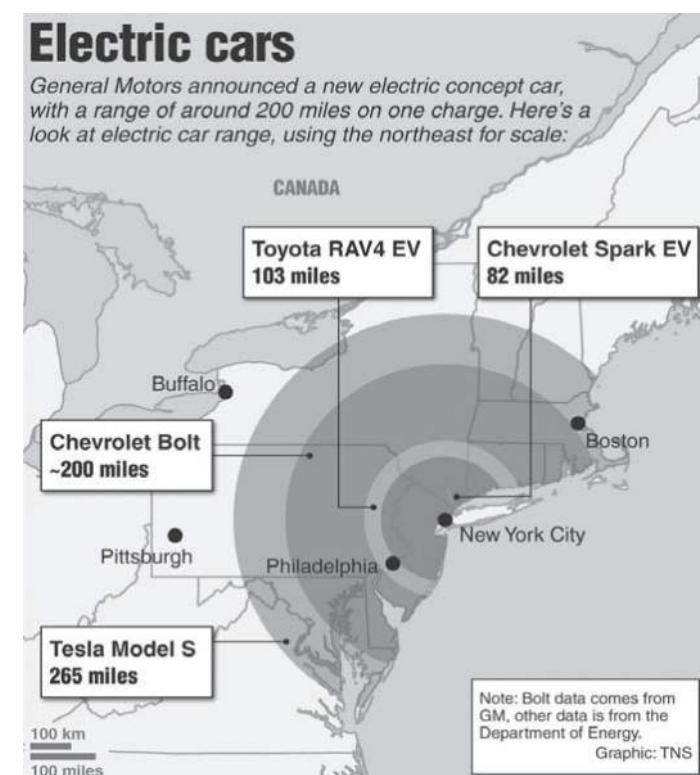
The Chevrolet Bolt EV electric concept vehicle is driven onto the stage at a presentation during the North American International Auto Show, Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Detroit. AP

adjust production and hope big research and development bets still pay off on better mileage to meet stricter government emissions standards. They also want to appeal to consumers,

who once were anxious about high gas prices.

The plummeting pump prices—now pegged by AAA at \$2.13 per gallon on average, compared with \$3.31 a year

ago—have had an “immediate impact on consumer psyche,” according to Edmunds.com senior analyst Jessica Caldwell. According to the car-shopping site, SUVs and pickups outsold



cars in 2014 for the first time in a decade. It helps that SUVs are now built on car rather than truck platforms and have vastly improved fuel efficiency compared with their forebears.

“People want to buy these cars and low gas prices give them the justification they need to do so,” Caldwell said.

High gas prices and stricter fuel-economy rules forced the industry to improve existing gas-powered engines—and to develop new vehicles that relied less on carbon for power, or not all. Hybrids came to prominence at the turn of the millennium with the Toyota Prius. But last year sales of

Prius models dropped 11.5 percent, compared with the previous year.

It's tough to predict a turnaround. The lower gas goes, the longer it will take to make the purchase pay off for a higher-priced, better-mileage Prius instead of, say, a Corolla.

The Prius costs approximately \$4,300 more than a comparable gas-powered vehicle. Back in July, when gas was around \$3.60 a gallon, a Prius buyer could expect it to take about 8 years to recoup the extra cost in the form of gasoline savings. At current prices, the payback doesn't come for nearly 14 years.

2 airlines were targets of attempt to steal customers' miles

DALLAS (AP)—Thieves with stolen usernames and passwords have broken into customer accounts at American and United Airlines and in some cases booked free trips or upgrades.

The airlines say the incidents happened in late December. American began notifying affected customers by email on Monday, a spokeswoman said.

Some travel websites are fighting this type of fraud by adding steps to the login process, and they warn against using the same username and password on more than one site.

United Airlines spokesman

Luke Punzenberger said thieves booked trips or made mileage transactions on up to three dozen accounts. United notified customers in late December, and Punzenberger said the airline would restore miles to anyone who had them stolen.

American Airlines spokeswoman Martha Thomas said that about 10,000 accounts were affected and some have been frozen while the airline and customer set up new accounts, starting with customers who have at least 100,000 miles. She said the airline has learned of two cases in which somebody

booked a free trip or upgrade without the account holder's knowledge.

Thomas said that American would pay for a credit-watch service for one year for affected customers.

Both were quick to say that nobody hacked their systems—that thieves got usernames and passwords somewhere else and tried to use them to log into American's AAdvantage and United's MileagePlus, hoping that the login information would be the same. They said that other information such as entire credit-card numbers was

not exposed.

The representatives said they did not know how thieves acquired the usernames and passwords. Thomas said American had referred the matter to the FBI.

Delta Air Lines detected similar attempts to crack into customers' accounts late last year but isn't aware that any were successful, said spokesman Anthony Black. A spokeswoman said Southwest Airlines did not see any such attempts around that time.

Airlines say they monitor loyalty programs for unusual

Millions more people to get their credit score for free

NEW YORK (AP)—Millions more people will have free access to their FICO credit score this year. That's good news for consumers, since the number is widely used by lenders to check potential borrowers' financial health.

Bank of America Corp., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Ally Financial Inc. said Monday that they will offer the score free to some of its customers this year. Discover Financial Services already offers a free FICO score to its credit card customers and Citigroup Inc. will offer it to most of its Citi-brand credit card customers this month.

The White House announced the new agreements Monday, saying that a free credit score was a tool to help people uncover identity theft.

Here's what you need to know about credit scores and the new deals:

Q: WHAT IS A FICO SCORE?

A: Fair Isaac Corp., the company behind FICO scores, says more than 90 percent of credit decisions are made based on them. When you apply for a new credit card, mortgage or auto loan, those lenders are likely to look at a FICO score to see if the borrower is reliable. People with higher scores—they range between 300 and 850—may be offered lower interest rates on mortgages and other loans. Those with low scores may not be able to borrow money or may not be approved for a new credit card. Missing payments and other factors can lower a score.

Q: HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR FICO SCORE?

A: You can pay to see your FICO score, usually \$20 each time. However, over the past two years credit card issuers including Citi, Discover, Barclaycard and First

Bankcard have allowed customers access to their FICO scores at no charge.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE LATEST FICO DEALS?

A: Bank of America said its consumer credit card customers will get free access to their FICO score later this year. Chase said its 10 million Slate credit card customers will get it in the coming months, and it is evaluating whether to offer a free credit score for other cardholders. Ally Financial said its auto loan customers need to be signed up to its online service or use its mobile app to get their FICO score. Some Ally customers will be able to see it in February, and the rest will see it this summer.

Q: WEREN'T FREE CREDIT REPORTS ALREADY AVAILABLE?

A: Credit scores are derived from the information in your credit report. A credit report is a detailed list of your credit his-

tory, including past and current debts, and whether you have missed any payments—but it does not include your credit score. Consumers are able to get a free credit report from each of the three reporting agencies—Equifax, Experian and TransUnion—at AnnualCreditReport.com. It's important to check reports for signs of fraud or mistakes.

Q: ARE THERE OTHER TYPES OF CREDIT SCORES BE-SIDES FICO?

A: Yes. Several websites offer free scores that are likely similar to your FICO score, because they are based on the same credit reports from Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Some of the websites that offer scores are Credit.com, CreditKarma.com, CreditSesame.com, Quizzle.com and Mint.com. Capital One also offers a credit score to its credit card customers.

Social Security won't seize tax refunds to collect old debts

WASHINGTON (AP)—People who owe old debts to the Social Security Administration are getting a reprieve this tax season: The federal government won't be seizing their tax refunds.

Acting Social Security Commissioner Carolyn Colvin suspended a debt collection program last spring in which thousands of people had tax refunds seized to recoup overpayments that happened more than a decade ago. Members of Congress complained that some people were being forced to repay benefits they received decades ago as children.

Following a review, the agency said Monday it will continue suspending the program this tax season while officials explore possible changes.

“The commissioner is concerned about the public perception about the way we're running this program,” said Pete Spencer, Social Security's deputy commissioner for budget, finance, quality and management.

There is a catch: The debts

won't go away. Eventually, when the debtors start receiving retirement benefits, Social Security can deduct the debts from their payments.

“We are bound by federal law to collect these debts and they don't go away,” Spencer said.

Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., called Social Security's review of the collection program “a start.”

But, she added, “We can't have families trapped in a mess of paperwork and red tape. I will continue fighting to make sure that no one feels blindsided or victimized by Social Security's efforts to collect decades-old debts.”

The collection program was authorized by a 2008 change in the law that allows Social Security and other federal agencies, through the Treasury Department, to seize federal payments to recoup debts that are more than 10 years old. Previously, there was a 10-year limit on using the program.

In most cases, the seizures are tax refunds.

Nation

US says it should have sent high official to Paris march

WASHINGTON (AP) -- In a rare admission of error, the White House said Monday that President Barack Obama or another high-level representative should have joined dozens of world leaders at an anti-terror rally in Paris.

While leaders from Europe, the Middle East and Africa linked arms for Sunday's march through the boulevards of Paris, the United States was represented by its ambassador to France. Attorney General Eric Holder was in Paris for security meetings but did not attend the march.

"It's fair to say we should have sent someone with a higher profile," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. The administration also announced that Secretary of State John Kerry, who was on a long-planned trip to India Sunday, will visit France later this week.

The White House appeared to have been caught off guard by both the scope of international representation at the rally and by the criticism of the decision to send only Ambassador Jane Hartley. Monday's admission of error seemed aimed at blunting criticism that the decision was tone-deaf or disrespectful of the longstanding U.S. alliance with France.

France has been on edge following the attacks that left 17 people dead and heightened fears about the spread of terrorism in the West. Three of the gunmen, who claimed allegiance to Islamic extremist groups, were killed by police, though French authorities said Monday that as many as six terrorist cell members might still be

at large. Before the White House acknowledged its misstep, Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio said the administration had made a mistake by not at least sending Holder or Kerry to attend the Sunday rally. And Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said it was an example of Obama's team keeping allies at a distance.

"Where was the president? Where was the vice president? Where was the secretary of state? Where was the attorney general, who had been there moments before, but chose to get on a plane and fly back home?" Cruz asked Monday during a speech at the conserva-

tive Heritage Foundation.

Some Obama administration officials, too, privately expressed frustration that a high-level U.S. representative did not participate in the march. Earnest said the White House took the blame but said Obama himself was not personally involved in the decision. Earnest would not say who was responsible for deciding the administration's participation in the event.

The fallout from the weekend rally underscored the degree to which the Obama White House has sometimes struggled with the potential importance of symbolic gestures.

"Part of this job is the theater

of it," Obama said last summer amid criticism that he had gone golfing just minutes after speaking about the beheading of an American journalist in Syria. "It's not something that comes naturally to me. But it matters. And I'm mindful of that."

Earnest suggested it was the elaborate security apparatus required for presidential travel that prohibited Obama, as well as Vice President Joe Biden, from traveling to Paris on relatively short notice.

"There's no doubt that had the president or vice president, on this very short time frame, gone to participate in this event that took place outdoors with

more than a million people in attendance, that it would have significantly impacted the ability of those who attended the march to participate in the way they did yesterday," he said.

Planning for presidential travel overseas often begins months in advance, and security personnel typically arrive days ahead of Obama. However, trips are occasionally pulled together more quickly, including last year when Obama traveled to South Africa for a memorial service following the death of Nelson Mandela. Vice presidents can also typically travel with a lighter security footprint.

Dozens of world leaders did attend the march in Paris Sunday, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, British Prime Minister David Cameron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. More than 1 million people joined in the march, which French officials called the largest demonstration in their country's history.

In report, Zimmerman denies throwing bottle at ex-girlfriend

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—George Zimmerman became angry and threw a wine bottle at his ex-girlfriend when she tried to break up with him, according to a police report released Monday.



Zimmerman

She explained that Zimmerman became angry after she told him she didn't want to take the relationship further, and they also argued over a painting she had that he wanted returned. Zimmerman made threats and threw the wine bottle, which didn't hit her, she said.

Detectives described her as "extremely emotional, crying, mad and upset" and said she became reluctant to cooperate when she realized that officers might be conducting an investigation. She called her former boyfriend "that psycho, George Zimmerman" and said several times that she should have known better than to get involved with him.

Key US military command's Twitter, YouTube sites hacked

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hackers claiming to work on behalf of Islamic State militants seized control of the Twitter and YouTube sites of the military's U.S. Central Command on Monday. The Pentagon swiftly suspended the sites and said it appears that no classified material was breached.

The hacker group, which calls itself CyberCaliphate, appears to be the same one that is under FBI investigation for hijacking the websites or Twitter feeds of media outlets in the last month, including a Maryland television station and a New Mexico newspaper.

Defense officials said Monday that they have been in contact with the FBI, and that the previous breaches by the group raises questions about whether the hackers have any real connection to the Islamic State militants that are under U.S. and coalition attack in Iraq and Syria.

FBI spokesman Joshua Campbell said the bureau is investigating the Central Command Twitter and YouTube breaches and is working with the Pentagon to determine the scope of the incident.

The Central Command Twit-

ter site was filled with threats that said "American soldiers, we are coming, watch your back." Other postings appeared to list names, phone numbers and personal email addresses of military personnel as well as PowerPoint slides and maps.

Most of the material was labeled "FOUO," which means "For Official Use Only," but none of it appeared to be classified or sensitive information, suggesting the hackers did not breach classified material. U.S. Central Command said that none of the information and documents posted on the hacked site were from the command's Internet servers or social media sites.

The breach only affected the Twitter and YouTube sites, which reside on commercial, non-Defense Department Internet servers. U.S. Central Command said its operational and military networks were

not compromised, but officials are notifying law enforcement about the possible release of personal information that was posted on the Twitter site.

One of the documents appeared to be slides developed by the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology's Lincoln Laboratory, a federally funded research and development center focused on national security. The slides appeared to depict what it called "scenarios" for conflict with North Korea and China. It's not clear where the documents came from or how long ago they might have been taken, since some of the information was as much as a year old.

"This is little more than a prank or vandalism. It's inconvenient and it's an annoyance. But that's all it is," said Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman. "It in no way compromises our operations in any way shape or form."

Warren said Pentagon officials are in contact with Twitter and YouTube to ensure that military passwords and other security for such public websites are adequate.

The tweets came shortly after U.S. Central Command posted its own tweets about the U.S. and partner nations continuing to attack Islamic State terrorists in Iraq and Syria and one repeating a report that said France will deploy an aircraft carrier to the fight.

The hackers titled the Central

Command Twitter page "CyberCaliphate" with an underline that said "i love you isis." And the broader message referred to the ongoing airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria and threatened, "We broke into your networks and personal devices and know everything about you. You'll see no mercy infidels. ISIS is already here, we are in your PCs, in each military base."

It added: "US soldiers! We're watching you!"

The intrusion on the military Twitter account carried the same logo, CyberCaliphate name and photo that appeared on the Albuquerque Journal's website in late December when one of its stories was hacked. And earlier this month, it appeared that the same hackers breached the Journal's Twitter account and also took over the website and Twitter feed of WBOC-TV in Salisbury, Maryland.

Frank Fisher, an FBI spokesman in Albuquerque, said the agency continues to investigate the case involving the Albuquerque Journal but he declined to provide any details. WBOC said it was also in contact with the agency.



AP

Asia

Pope arrives in Sri Lanka at start of Asian tour

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

-- Pope Francis arrived in Sri Lanka Tuesday at the start of a weeklong Asian tour saying the island nation can't fully heal from a quarter-century of ethnic civil war without pursuing truth for the injustices committed.

Francis didn't refer specifically to Sri Lanka's refusal to cooperate with a U.N. investigation into alleged war crimes committed in the final months of the war. A 2011 U.N. report said as many as 40,000 Tamil civilians may have been killed, and that both sides committed serious human rights violations.

Francis, 78, delivered the speech on the tarmac of Colombo's international airport, where he was welcomed under sunny skies by Sri Lanka's new president, Maithripala Sirisena, who was sworn in Friday after a major electoral upset. Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith and other church leaders were on hand as well.

The pope arrived to a colorful welcome ceremony, complete with traditional drummers and dancers from both the Sinhalese and Tamil groups, and a children's choir singing a song of welcome in both languages of Sri Lanka - as well as English and Italian.

Francis was seeking to bring a message of reconciliation to Sri Lanka during the first trip

by a pope to the nation since the end of the conflict in 2009.

Tamil Tiger rebels fought a 25-year civil war to demand an independent Tamil nation after decades of perceived discrimination by the government of the Sinhalese majority. U.N. estimates say 80,000 to 100,000 people were killed during the course of the war, though other reports suggest the toll could be much higher.

In his speech, Francis said it wasn't easy for Sri Lankans to overcome the "bitter legacy" of injustice and hostilities after so many years of conflict. Finding true peace after so much bloodshed, "can only be done by overcoming evil with good, and by cultivating those virtues which foster reconciliation, solidarity and peace," he said.

But he added: "The process of healing also needs to include the pursuit of truth, not for the sake of opening old wounds, but rather as a necessary means of promoting justice, healing and unity."

Tamils still claim discrimination by the Sinhalese and human rights activists have said the government isn't serious about probing abuses by its own armed forces, accused of having targeted hospitals and blocking food and medicine in a strategy of war. The U.N. report, for its part, found that the rebels were



accused of recruiting child soldiers and holding civilians as human shields and firing from among them.

Francis arrived just days after the country's longtime president, Mahinda Rajapaksa, was upset in an election he had called.

AP Pope Francis walks down an airstair upon arrival in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2015.

The victor, Sirisena, but defected from the ruling party in November in a surprise move and won the election by capitalizing on Rajapaksa's unpopularity among ethnic and religious minorities.

In a speech he gave before the pope spoke, Sirisena said his government aims to promote "peace and friendship among our people after overcoming a cruel terrorist conflict."

"We are a people who believe in religious tolerance and coexistence based on our centuries old heritage," he said.

Francis has a busy first day, including an airport arrival speech and a meeting with the country's bishops. After his arrival speech, his other main events Tuesday were a meeting with the country's bishops and an afternoon meeting with representatives of the country's major religious groups.

There, he's expected to call for greater dialogue among the country's Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Catholics amid a surge in anti-Muslim violence by fundamentalist Buddhists. Sinhalese are mostly Buddhist while Tamils are mostly Hindu.

Catholics make up less than 7 percent of the island nation's 20 million people, but the church counts both Sinhalese and Tamils as members and sees itself as a strong source for national unity.

On Wednesday, Francis will canonize Sri Lanka's first saint, the Rev. Giuseppe Vaz, a 17th century missionary credited with having revived the Catholic faith among both Sinhalese and Tamils amid persecution by Dutch colonial rulers, who were Calvinists.

Later in the day he flies into Tamil territory to pray at a shrine beloved by both Sinhalese and Tamil faithful.

On Thursday he heads to the Philippines, the largest Roman Catholic country in Asia and third-largest in the world, for the second and final leg of the journey.

There he'll comfort victims of the devastating 2013 Typhoon Haiyan, which left more than 7,300 people dead or missing, displaced some 4 million and turned a huge densely populated region into a wasteland.

Millions of Filipinos are expected to turn out for his events, possibly surpassing the record 5 million who turned out for the last papal visit: St. John Paul II in 1995. Themes Francis is expected to raise are related to the family, poverty and the environment.

Divers retrieve second black box from AirAsia crash

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP)

-- Divers retrieved the crashed AirAsia plane's second black box from the bottom of the Java Sea on Tuesday, giving investigators essential tools to piece together what brought Flight 8501 down.

The cockpit voice recorder was freed from beneath the heavy ruins of a wing early in the morning from a depth of about 30 meters (98 feet), a day after the aircraft's flight data recorder was recovered, said Tonny Budiono, sea navigation director at the Transportation Ministry.

"Thank God," he said. "This is good news for investigators to reveal the cause of the plane crash."

The device will be flown to the capital, Jakarta, to be downloaded and analyzed with the other box. Since it records in a two-hour loop, all discussions between the captain and co-pilot should be available.

The plane crashed 42 minutes into a flight from Surabaya, Indonesia, to Singapore on Dec. 28. All 162 people on board were killed, but only 48 bodies have been recovered so far.

The find is the latest boost in the slow-moving hunt to

scour the shallow, murky stretch of ocean.

Over the weekend, the tail of the Airbus A320 was recovered, emblazoned with the carrier's red-and-white cursive logo. The black boxes are housed inside the tail, but were missing when the wreckage was pulled to the surface.

The devices were soon located after three Indonesian ships detected two strong pings being emitted from their beacons, about 20 meters (22 yards) apart. Strong currents, large waves and blinding silt have hindered divers' efforts throughout the 17-day search, but they took advantage of calmer early morning conditions on both days to extract the instruments.

The information pulled from the black boxes—which are actually orange—will likely be vital. Designed to survive extreme heat and pressure, they should provide investigators with a second-by-second timeline of the flight.

The voice recorder captures all conversations between the pilots and with air traffic controllers, as well as any noises heard in the cockpit, including possible alarms or explosions. The flight data recorder saves

information on the position and condition of almost every major part in the plane, including altitude, airspeed, direction, engine thrust, the rate of ascent or descent and what up-or-down angle the plane was pointed.

"There's like 200-plus parameters they record," said aviation expert John Goglia, a former U.S. National Transportation Safety Board member. "It's going to provide us an ocean of material."

In their last contact with air-traffic controllers, the pilots of the AirAsia jet asked to climb from 32,000 feet (9,750 meters) to 38,000 feet (11,580 meters) to avoid threatening clouds, but were denied permission because of heavy air traffic. Four minutes later, the plane dropped off the radar. No distress signal was received.

Searchers also have been trying to locate the main section of the plane's cabin, where many of the victims' corpses are believed to be entombed.

Decomposition is making identification more difficult for desperate families waiting to bury their loved ones. Nearly all passengers and crew were Indonesian.

Afghan officials: Islamic State group operating in south

CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan (AP)

-- Afghan officials confirmed for the first time Monday that the extremist Islamic State group is active in the south, recruiting fighters, flying black flags and, according to some sources, even battling Taliban militants.

The sources, including an Afghan general and a provincial governor, said a man identified as Mullah Abdul Rauf was actively recruiting fighters for the group, which controls large parts of Syria and Iraq.

Gen. Mahmood Khan, the

deputy commander of the army's 215 Corps, said that within the past week residents of a number of districts in the southern Helmand province have said Rauf's representatives are fanning out to recruit people.

"A number of tribal leaders, jihadi commanders and some ulema (religious council members) and other people have contacted me to tell me that Mullah Rauf had contacted them and invited them to join him," Khan said.

But he said the Taliban, which is active across Helmand and controls some districts, have warned people not to contact Rauf.

"People are saying that he

has raised black flags and even tried to bring down white Taliban flags in some areas," said Saifullah Sanginwal, a tribal leader in Sangin district. "There are reports that 19 or 20 people have been killed" in fighting between the Taliban and the IS group, he added.

Rauf was a corps commander during the Taliban's 1996-2001 rule of Afghanistan, according to Amir Mohammad Akundzada, the governor of Nimroz province neighboring Helmand. Akundzada said he is related to Rauf but has not seen him for almost 20 years.

Both Khan and Akundzada said Rauf was apprehended after the fall of the Taliban in the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan and was detained for years at Guantanamo Bay.

Khan and Akundzada suggested Rauf may have fallen out with the leaders of the Afghan Taliban after spending time in the Pakistani city of Quetta, where Afghan officials and analysts believe senior Taliban leaders are based.

A video released online Saturday purports to show militants from both Afghanistan and Pakistan pledging support to IS.

But Akundzada said IS was not likely to gain traction with ordinary Afghans. "People who

want to fight in Afghanistan just create new names—one day they are wearing white clothes (of the Taliban) and the next day they have black clothes and call themselves Daesh, but they are the same people," he said, using the Arabic acronym for the IS group.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the U.S. has noted the "rhetorical message of support" for the Islamic State group by some in Afghanistan.

"We continue to watch for signs that these statements could amount to something more than just rhetorical support," she said. "That doesn't mean it's unimportant."

Analysts say most claims of allegiance to IS in Afghanistan have been motivated by opportunism and that a new jihadist outfit would find it difficult to establish a presence where there are already long-established militant groups with tribal links. The Taliban have confined their insurgency to Afghanistan, and do not espouse the pan-Islamic model of jihad embraced by the Islamic State.

Parts of Helmand have seen fierce fighting between the Taliban and Afghan security forces since U.S. troops pulled out more than six months ago.

World

Police: As many as 6 Paris terror suspects may be at large

PARIS (AP)—As many as six members of a terrorist cell involved in the Paris attacks may still be at large, including a man who was seen driving a car registered to the widow of one of the gunmen, French police said Monday.

The disclosure came as France deployed 10,000 troops to protect sensitive sites—including Jewish schools and neighborhoods—in the wake of the attacks that killed 17 people last week.

Brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi and their friend, Amédy Coulibaly, were killed Friday by police after a murderous spree at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket. The three all claimed ties to Islamic extremists in the Middle East.

Two police officials told The Associated Press that authorities were searching the Paris area for the Mini Cooper registered to Hayat Boumeddiene, Coulibaly's widow. Turkish officials say she is now in Syria.

One of the police officials said the cell consisted of about 10 members, and that "five or six could still be at large," but he did not provide their names. The other official said the cell was



Police officers and French army soldiers patrol Rue des Rosiers street, in the heart of Paris Jewish quarter, in Paris, Monday Jan. 12, 2015. AP

made up of about eight people and included Boumeddiene.

One of the other men believed to be part of the cell has been seen driving Boumeddiene's car around Paris in recent days, the two officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation with the media. They cautioned that it

was not clear whether the driver was an operative, involved in logistics, or had some other, less-violent role in the cell.

An Interior Ministry official declined to comment on an ongoing investigation, and a spokeswoman for the Paris prosecutor's office was not immediately available for comment.

One of the police officials also said Coulibaly apparently set off a car bomb Thursday in the town of Villejuif, but no one was injured and it did not receive significant media attention at the time.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls said the manhunt is urgent because "the threat is still present" from the attacks.

"The work on these attacks, on these terrorist and barbaric acts continues ... because we consider that there are most probably some possible accomplices," Valls told BFM television.

The nationwide deployment of troops would be completed by Tuesday and would focus on the most sensitive locations, Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said.

By midday Monday, soldiers and police filled Paris' Marais district—one of the country's oldest Jewish neighborhoods. About 4,700 of the security forces would be assigned to protect France's 717 Jewish schools, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said.

"A little girl was telling me earlier that she wanted to live in peace and learn in peace in her school," Cazeneuve said on a visit to a Paris Jewish classroom, where the walls were covered with children's drawings of smiling faces.

"That's what the government, that's what the Republic, owes to all the children in France: security in all schools, especially in the schools that could be threatened," he added.

The children listened and waved Israeli and French flags.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the kosher market. Volunteers, meanwhile, recited prayers over the bodies of some victims as they were prepared for burial by the Jewish Burial Society in Paris.

The attacks began Wednesday with 12 people killed at the publication Charlie Hebdo, which had lampooned Islam and other religions, by gunmen the police identified as the Kouachi brothers. Police have said, however, that the attack was carried out by three people.

Authorities said Coulibaly killed a policewoman Thursday and then killed four people at the kosher market Friday before he was slain by police.

Video emerged Sunday of Coulibaly explaining how the attacks in Paris would unfold. French police want to find the person or persons who shot and posted the video, which was edited after Friday's attacks.

Boumeddiene was seen traveling through Turkey with a male companion before reportedly arriving in Syria with him on Jan. 8—the day after the Charlie Hebdo attack and the same day Coulibaly began his murderous spree by killing the policewoman.

Anti-Islam rally draws big crowd in German city of Dresden

DRESDEN, Germany (AP)—A weekly anti-Islam rally in the eastern German city of Dresden drew its biggest crowd yet on Monday, after organizers declared it a tribute to the victims of the terror attacks in Paris.

Organizers said 40,000 people participated in the march, while Dresden police put the figure at over 25,000 people—still considerably more than the

18,000 who came last week.

The group, which calls itself Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA, had asked supporters to wear black ribbons as a show of respect for the 17 people killed in the French capital last week.

"The terrible acts of Paris are further proof that PEGIDA is needed," said Lutz Bachmann,

one of the organizers of the Dresden rally.

PEGIDA's critics, including all of Germany's mainstream parties, have accused the group of exploiting the attack to stir up race hatred.

Some marchers held up placards with the names of the French journalists killed by Islamic militants in Paris. Others carried banners condemning the

"lying press" that they claimed misrepresents their cause. One poster showed Chancellor Angela Merkel wearing an Islamic headscarf.

One marcher, Markus Bauer of Bautzen, said he had come to express his disgust about what he called the "ruling class."

"Wall Street controls them all. They are responsible for all the wars and people know

that," he said.

PEGIDA's organizers insist that they aren't aligned with Germany's far right, but many in the crowd sported insignia and clothing that neo-Nazis use to identify each other.

In other cities across Germany, counter protesters outnumbered the anti-Islam demonstrators.

Berlin police said 4,000

US: Cuba completes release of 53 political prisoners

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba has completed the release of 53 political prisoners that was part of last month's historic deal with the United States, the Obama administration said Monday. The move clears a major hurdle for the normalization of ties between the two countries after more than five decades of estrangement.

The prisoners had been on a list of opposition figures whose release was sought as part of the U.S. agreement last month with the Cuban government. They had been cited by various human rights organizations as being imprisoned by the Cuban government for exercising internationally protected freedoms or for their promotion of political and social reforms in Cuba.

The Obama administration provided the list of released Cuban dissidents to prominent members of Congress. A copy of the list was obtained by The Associated Press. One former prisoner is

referred to as "on probation."

In the accompanying letters to lawmakers, Secretary of State John Kerry writes of his concern about "short-term detentions of Cubans peacefully attempting to express their opinions."

"We do not expect that the changes to U.S. policy will effect a transformation of Cuban society overnight," Kerry writes. "We are convinced, however, the old policy of isolation did not achieve its objectives, and that a new policy will more effectively promote our values and help the Cuban people help themselves as they move into the 21st century."

Speaking in Louisville, Kentucky, President Barack Obama's U.N. ambassador said the prisoners were released in recent days. "Welcome as that step is, and heartening as it is for their families, (it) does not resolve the larger human rights problems on the island," Sa-

mantha Power said, according to prepared remarks.

Power was speaking Monday at an event hosted by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. She outlined issues which the administration and the Republican-led Congress could work together on and issues they remained further apart on.

Both sides want to advance freedom in Cuba, she said, but they disagree on strategy.

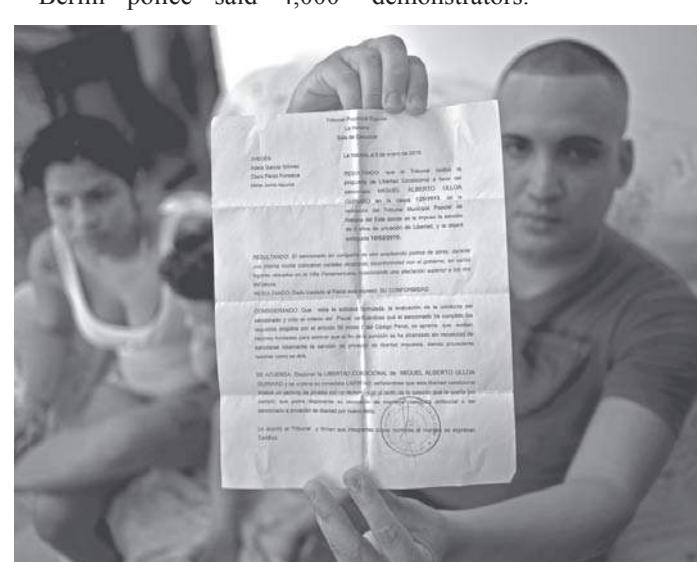
"Some of the embargo's staunchest defenders are Democrats and Republicans with deep ties to the island—people whose families came to America fleeing the Castros' repression," Power explained. "These are men and women who are completely dedicated to doing all they can to ensure that Cubans on the island get to enjoy true freedom. So it is important to acknowledge that while there may be disagreements on the best way to get there, we share a

common goal of advancing the rights of the Cuban people."

Power said changes already are occurring in Cuba. When Cuban artist Tania Bruguera and other activists were detained after announcing an anti-government event in Havana's historic Revolution Square, she said, nearly 300 Cuban artists signed a letter supporting her freedom.

"In spite of genuine fear, Cubans were speaking out," Power said. "And the Castro government was forced to explain why it would rather arrest a woman than let her speak freely in a public square."

Last month, Cuba and the U.S. agreed to work to restore normal diplomatic relations as part of a deal in which Cuba freed an imprisoned U.S. aid worker along with an imprisoned spy working for the U.S. and the imprisoned dissidents. The U.S. released several Cuba intelligence agents.



Dissident Miguel Alberto Ulloa, 25, poses for a photo in his home, holding his release document, a day after his release, in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Jan. 9, 2015. AP

everything they want from the United States for "these minimal changes."

He said he wants to be certain that improved relations between Washington and Havana provides equal benefits to the U.S.

"My interest in Cuba is freedom and democracy," he said.

Focus

MOKPO, South Korea (AP)—Life as a salt-farm slave was so bad Kim Jong-seok sometimes fantasized about killing the owner who beat him daily. Freedom, he says, has been worse.

In the year since police emancipated the severely mentally disabled man from the remote island farm where he had worked for eight years, Kim has lived in a grim homeless shelter, where he has been preyed upon and robbed by other residents. He has no friends, no job training prospects or counseling, and feels confined and deeply bored.

"I want to go back," Kim, 41, said during a recent interview in the shelter near Mokpo, the southwestern mainland port that is the gateway to dozens of salt islands where a months-long investigation by The Associated Press found that slavery still thrives, an open secret among locals.

"I feel trapped here," he said.

Kim's plight illustrates the continuing failure of one of Asia's richest countries to help workers who have been enslaved on the farms—often people with mental or physical disabilities. Three other disabled ex-slaves also told the AP that they wanted to return to the salt farms because of their misery and sense of aimlessness in the crowded homeless shelters that officials placed them in.

On the farms, they said, they at least had a fixed daily routine, a job they became skilled at and a sense of purpose. An official on Sinui, one of the salt-farming islands, confirms that at least one ex-slave has returned to a farm. Activists and officials suspect there are many more.

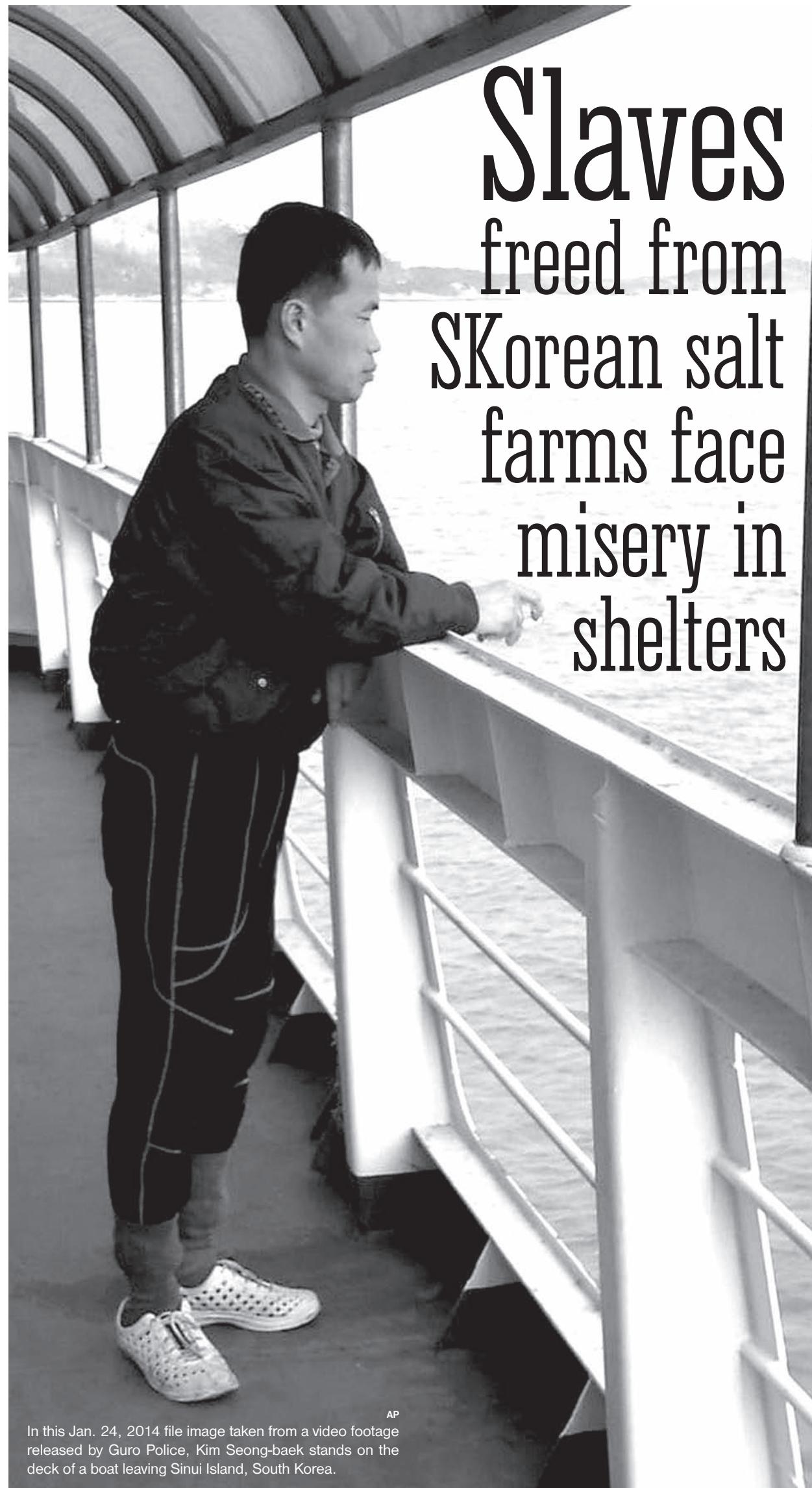
While the initial reports on slavery shocked many South Koreans and led to a nationwide investigation last year, "Society continues to fail in providing basic help for our most vulnerable members even after they were pulled out of slavery on the islands," said Choi Jung Kyu, a lawyer whose office represents 18 former slaves. "Our society is treating the victims worse than the salt farmers did."

Salt farmers often describe themselves as doing society a favor by taking in the homeless, the disabled, the uneducated and those who can't get jobs anywhere else and whom the rest of the country would like to forget. They also acknowledge a harsh economic reality.

"It would be extremely difficult to run a salt farm without disabled people," said Park Jong-won, 69, a salt farm owner on Sinui Island who recently received a suspended sentence for exploiting a mentally disabled man for profit. "Normal people wouldn't work at salt farms even if we begged them."

Prosecutors had sought a prison term for Park, but an appeals court showed leniency in part because it said Park provided the victim with "food and a place to stay."

Revelations of slavery involving South Korea's disabled on island salt farms have emerged five times in the last decade. Last year's government probe found more than 100 workers nationwide who'd received no, or scant, pay. A later investigation by police and activists found 63 more such workers in the islands, three quarters of



In this Jan. 24, 2014 file image taken from a video footage released by Guro Police, Kim Seong-bae stands on the deck of a boat leaving Sinui Island, South Korea. AP

whom were disabled.

The investigations began after Seoul police went undercover to rescue a disabled man who had written to his mother to say he was enslaved on a salt farm. That man, Kim Seong-bae, is expected to testify Wednesday in a Seoul court as his former boss appeals a 3 1/2-year prison sentence.

Kim Seong-bae, now living in Seoul, has no desire to go back; he

says even looking at salt disgusts him. But several other recently freed slaves interviewed by AP say they feel more hopelessness and fear than relief about their lives away from the salt farms. Most of them were homeless before being lured to salt farms by illegal job brokers hired by farm owners.

Kim Jong-seok, the former slave languishing in the homeless shelter near Mokpo, said that his ex-owner,

who is being investigated for abuse but hasn't been arrested, recently visited and asked if he'd work for him again for about \$90 a month.

Lawyers helping the victims said they are alarmed that some disabled ex-slaves are in regular contact with their former masters, but add that the law does not prohibit it.

Others released from slavery also struggle to fit into society.

Han Sang-deok was freed by police last year after 20 years working without pay on a salt farm on Sinui, the same island where both Kims had been exploited. Until his release, not once did the 64-year-old mentally disabled man leave the island, Han said in an interview at a cafe in Mokpo.

Asked about his relationship with the farm owners, Han says: "I just worked. I was there on my own. I went to work, I slept. Like that."

Han, whose relatives had thought he was dead for two decades, pauses for a long time when asked about his future plans, finally saying, "I don't know what I should do."

Kang Seong-hwan, an official at the Sinui island ward office who is in charge of monitoring disabled workers, told AP that at least one salt farm slave had returned to his employer after being rescued last year. He said he has little actual power to check up on workers and suspects there are more cases of returned slaves because they have been essentially neglected after moving to shelters.

Activists trying to keep tabs on freed slaves often track down victims only to hear them say that they have returned to the salt farms and do not want to be contacted again, said Huh Joo-hyeon, the director of an activist group in Mokpo.

Park Su-in, Huh's colleague, describes a system in which disabled workers on the islands become dependent on their owners for food and medical care, leading to exploitation. One disabled former slave she talked to didn't know the words "password" or "bank account," yet he had a bank account, controlled by his owner, where his disability payments were sent.

Amid short-lived public anger last year, regional government officials vowed to open an exclusive facility for the freed slaves and connect them with new jobs. The promises haven't been kept, and activists believe there's little chance they will be.

Many of the ex-slaves are now in a bureaucratic limbo. Because they have been moved away from the islands in Sinan County, county officials say they can't help the victims and, besides, they don't have the space for them.

An official from the homeless shelter near Mokpo where Kim Jong-seok lives said freed slaves were supposed to stay there only temporarily, and wondered when Sinan County would take them back. The official, who refused to give his name because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly, said the facility barely has room for the homeless people in the area, and it's not their responsibility to provide job programs and counseling.

In some cases, guardians have been appointed to protect former slaves' interests. One ex-slave, Heo Tae-yeong, has a guardian who orchestrated his move from a Mokpo area homeless shelter to a residential facility for the mentally disabled in Gwangju.

Heo, who cannot read or count, worries that he will struggle in a new environment, but is excited about the idea of learning job skills in Gwangju. He hopes to one day work in a factory.

When asked what he'll do with the money he earns, Heo takes a long drag off his cigarette.

He doesn't know. "I've never had any money."

Good Housekeeping

Six cautions about overimproving your home

By DANA DRATCH

BANKRATE.COM

Call it the curse of overimproving: sinking so much into upgrades, renovations or additions that you've burned off nearly all the equity of your home.

When you sell, you "never get 100 cents on the dollar, no matter what the improvement," says Erik H. Reisner, managing partner of Mad River Valley Real Estate in Vermont. "It may increase the value of the property, but not dollar for dollar."

That means homeowners need to be careful when they plan home improvements, reno-

vations or additions.

THE BOTTOM LINE

If it's for your own use or helps you get more time in the house (like adding a first-floor bedroom), that's smart. But if your sole purpose is to increase your home price or even "get it back at resale," forget it.

Want to be wise with your renovation dollars? Here are six points to consider.

1. Overimprove for yourself

Are you overimproving to suit your own needs? That's fine, says Pat Vredevogd Combs, past president of the National Association of Realtors and vice president of Coldwell Banker AJS Schmidt

in Grand Rapids, Mich.

But a smart homeowner thinks in terms of getting value through enjoyment of the project, not an increase in home value, she says.

So if you're planning to overimprove the home for yourself and your family, do it while (or because) you're planning for many years in this home, she says.

SHORT-TIMERS SHOULD KEEP IT AS IS

"If you just bought the house of your dreams and you're planning to stay there for the next 20 years, do it and enjoy the heck out of it," Combs says. "If you're planning to move in the

next three to five years, bite your tongue and bide your time."

Renee Behr, broker associate with Behr & Behr/The Platinum Group Realtors in Colorado Springs, Colo., agrees. Overimproving can be OK, she says, if you plan on staying there, or "you don't care if you get it back when you sell."

2. Big improvements don't yield big bucks

There's one in every neighborhood: the guy who's convinced if he adds enough granite, hardwood and molding to his modest house, he can get palace prices when he sells.

"Just because a house has

new countertops and a brand-new master bath doesn't mean you've made more square footage in your house," Combs says. "Compared to houses down the street with the same amount of square footage," the prices will be basically the same, she says.

OVERIMPROVED FOR THE LOCATION

Reisner recalls one homeowner who owned a \$400,000 house in a \$400,000 neighborhood. The owner "did a ton of renovations and additions" and then listed it for \$700,000.

"We do run into this all the time," Combs says. And while overimproved houses can sometimes sell faster, they still don't return the money their owners put into them, she says.

Even in the rooms that are renovated most often--kitchens and bathrooms--it's possible to overimprove, says Katie Severance, co-author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Selling Your Home" and Realtor with Re/Max Village Square in Montclair, N.J.

3. Overimproving scares buyers

You've done it all: turned that master bedroom into a sweet suite, attached a luxury bathroom and added a deck. Or maybe you transformed a plain-Jane kitchen and never-used dining room into an uber-cool great room cum gathering spot.

But if your house is the most expensive in the neighborhood, that scares buyers, Severance says.

"Buyers are apprehensive about buying the most expensive house on the street."

Adding a room swells the price if you've increased the square footage, Combs says. If your addition puts you at or over the highest prices in the neighborhood, "you'll have a hard time" at resale, she says.

4. 'Too-little yard' syndrome

While more square footage often equals higher home value, pay attention to how an addition affects the yard, Severance says.

"Stand on the sidewalk and look at the other houses," Seve-

rance advises. "Is what you're planning consistent with the scale of the other houses?"

"The size of the yard is a major factor for buyers," she says. And if the house crowds the yard, it doesn't matter how upgraded the inside is.

One of the most financially dangerous overimprovements is oversized additions that are either too big for the neighborhood or too large for the lot, she says.

5. Play 'count the bedrooms'

It's not always the major ren-

ovations that cause problems at

resale, Severance says.

One thing to watch: the num-

ber of bedrooms, relative to the

rest of the neighborhood.

If you have four or fewer bed-

rooms, then converting one into

a walk-in closet or taking that

space to add on to an adjoining

room could make your house

worth less when you sell, Seve-

rance says.

KEEP ENOUGH BEDROOMS

"Demographically, Americans are having fewer children," she says. For the most part, buyers "don't need these six- and seven-bedroom houses anymore."

But, depending on the neighbor hood, a smart buyer keeps at least four bedrooms, she says. If you want to style any of them as hobby rooms or man caves, that's fine, Severance says. Just avoid changes that require actual renovations--like knocking out or moving walls.

6. Renovation = personaliza-

You want a swimming pool.

The next buyer? Not so much.

With every renovation you make, you personalize your house and customize it for your own use.

And that's one more reason to improve--and overimprove--for yourself alone. Special amenities that you consider an upgrade may not have any value for the next buyer, Severance says.

Some will see your sparkling pool as luxurious, even glamorous. Others could view it as a maintenance hassle and a liability, she says.

COMFORT FOODS

Grandma's Meatloaf Deluxe

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
(C) 2015 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

If you enjoy meatloaf as much as I do, you can never have enough recipes. Here's one more quick, tasty and healthy recipe to add to your collection.

■ 16 ounces extra-lean ground sirloin beef or turkey breast

■ 15 reduced-fat butter crackers, made into crumbs

■ 3/4 cup chopped onion

■ 3/4 cup shredded carrots

■ 1/8 teaspoon black pepper

■ 1 (10 3/4-ounce) can reduced-fat tomato soup

■ 1 teaspoon prepared mustard

■ 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine meat, cracker crumbs, onion, carrots, black pepper and 1/3 cup tomato soup. Mix well to combine. Pat mixture into prepared loaf pan. Bake for 30 minutes.

3. In a small bowl, combine remaining tomato soup, mustard and parsley flakes. Evenly spread mixture over partially baked meatloaf. Continue baking for 30 minutes. Place pan on a wire rack and let set for 5 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

■ Each serving equals: 178calories, 6gfat, 16gprotein, 15gcarb., 300mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 Starch, 1/2 Vegetable.

In Loving Memory of

Francisco Babauta Castro

July 07, 1953 – January 07, 2015

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: †Marceliano Manibusan Castro
Sister: †Alicia C. Manglona
Daughters: †Mary B. Castro
†Susan B. Castro
Parents In Law: †Jesus Miyasaki Babauta
†Petra Reyes Babauta

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Theresita Babauta Castro

Children and Families:

Emily B. Castro & Jamal Jones (Kylah Denice)
Pearl B. Castro & (Trevin Kei-ji, Petra Doreen)
Daisy B. Castro & (Dasia Kailani, Devin Karter)
Nathan B. Castro & Renee Manibusan (Theia Kohāna)

Mother: Dolores Lizama Babauta Castro

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

John & Rose Castro
Mart Castro & Maggie Muna
Roy Castro & Cel Gapach
John Manglona
Lola C. & Joe Mafnas
Jess & Nora Castro
Ton & Maricar Castro
Ben & Lucy Castro
Tina C. & Gus Kaneshi
Joe & Faye Castro
Rit C. & Ben Agulto

Brother at heart: Chel & Pat Castro

In Laws: Juan R. Babauta
Joseph R. & Lydia A. Babauta
Oscar R. & Lorraine W. Babauta
Donald R. Babauta
Diego R. & Dolorina J. Babauta
Pat B. & Juan A. Camacho
Franklin R. & Celina R. Babauta
Anthony R. & Melissa DLG. Babauta
Jesse R. Babauta

Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose of his soul is being celebrated at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. and Holy Rosary is being recited at 7:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2015. His remains will be escorted from CHCC Morgue at 7:30 a.m. to San Roque Parish. Responso and Holy Rosary will take place upon the arrival of his remains. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Si Yuus Ma'aase & Thank You

Terry Babauta Castro, Children and Families

In Loving Memory of

†Guadalupe Perez Manglona

December 08, 1932 – January 11, 2015

She Now Joins Those Who Have Gone Before Her:

Father: †Jose Duenas Perez

Mother: †Maria Lizama Perez

Husband: †Raimundo H. Manglona

Brothers and Sisters: †Rosa P. Alacantara, †Francisco Perez,
†Maria P. Dydasco, †Ana Perez,
†Antonio Perez, †Elisita P. Taggart,
†Rosario P. Guzman, †Vicente Perez

Her memories will be forever live in the heart of her:

Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren:

David J. & Consolacion D. Sablan (Vincent E. & Cynthia C. Sablan

[Michaela, Gabriela], †Maynard G. Sablan,
Jeffrey J. & Maureen T. Sablan [Jessica, Stasia, Nathan,
Nicole, Nia David], Angela Marie &
David Brantley [Hannah, Myah]

Victoria S. & †Bruce J. Coleman (Michael J. &
Heather Coleman, Alitheia T. Coleman)

Patricia A. Sablan & Paul S. Jaramillo
(Lisa Denae Montgomery)

Stephen P. & Merci C. Sablan (Stephen Elias C. Sablan "Weevo",
Valentina Rose C. Sablan & Syl Teregeyo [Lailey Colette],
Carmen Guadalupe C. Sablan, Mary Lenor C. Sablan)

Catherine P. Sablan (Coleen Guadalupe Sablan [Moses],
Jesse Cruz Camacho, Jr.)

Christina P. Sablan (Kalani S. DL Guerrero & Jeffrey Benavente [Jessabel, Jazmin,
Jeffrey, Jeffrey Lyn], Kollin S. DL Guerrero & †Enrique Naputi [Delores,
†Korina, Enrique], Casidy S. Cruz [Cody, Joshua])

James P. Sablan & Antonia Manibusan (James Dominic "JD" M. Sablan, Samantha M. Sablan)

Ross H. & Julie O. Manglona (Christian Manzanares, Julian Manglona, Ian Manglona,
Tristan Manglona, Ethan Manglona)

Roddy H. Manglona & Umeko Yamada (Raimundo Manglona, Isabel Manglona, Roddy Manglona, Jr., Angelica Manglona)

She will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren, in-laws and friends.

Nightly rosary is being prayed at San Jose Church, Oleai at 8:00 PM.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, January 19, 2014. Her remains will be escorted from
Nuestra Senora Dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 8:00 am to Mount Carmel Cathedral.
Responso Service will beheld upon arrival at the church. Mass of Christian Burial will be
celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Services at Mount Carmel Cemetery
where she will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Maase
Please join us In Prayers.

Children and Family of the late

† Guadalupe Perez Manglona & † Raimundo Hocog Manglona



Life & Style

McDonald's walks fine line with 'Signs' commercial

NEW YORK (AP)—An ad by McDonald's is testing the fine line companies need to walk when referencing national tragedies.

The ad by the world's biggest hamburger chain that aired during the NFL playoffs and Golden Globes on Sunday featured a montage of signs outside McDonald's restaurants, including messages of support after devastating events.

Among them were "We Remember 9 11" and "Boston Strong," a reference to the bombing that killed three people at a marathon. Other messages thanked veterans, or wished individuals in the community a happy birthday, all intended to illustrate the role McDonald's restaurants play in communities.

The ad was set to a children's choir singing a version of "Carry On" by the rock band Fun.

The commercial provoked strong reactions, with some saying they were moved by it and others saying it was tacky for a company to use tragic events to burnish its image. The ad is part of a new ad campaign by McDonald's to highlight the "loving" in its "I'm Lovin' It" slogan and associate its name with that positive emotion.

Deborah Wahl, chief marketing officer for McDonald's USA, said it was meant to reflect the company's history in communities, through good times and bad. Leaving out the bad moments would've been dishonest, she said.

She noted that McDonald's gets a lot of attention no matter what it does because of its size, although the level of reaction for the latest ad was surprising.

"Did we expect all this? No," she said in a phone interview.

She said it was too early to tell whether the ad was a success, but that the company is trying to engage more with customers and that "good advertising creates emotion."

Laura Ries, president of Ries & Ries, a branding consulting firm, said the ad hit a nerve in part because it was unusual for McDonald's, which typically features shots of its food.

She thought the ad was effective because it uses the "iconic imagery" of the Golden Arches.

"It's something that everyone has seen on the roads growing up," Ries said.

Not everyone was moved, however. The Washington Post's Wonkblog referred to it as "tone deaf" and a "disarming minute of mushy corporate propaganda." Some noted the irony of an ad celebrating the company's role in the community, given ongoing protests by workers and labor organizers calling for higher pay and a union. For others, the reference to the Sept. 11 attacks and Boston Marathon bombing in a McDonald's ad were jarring, and some commenters on Facebook and Twitter called it crass and exploitative.

Other companies have faced sharp backlash for incorporating national tragedies into their marketing. In 2013, AT&T was criticized for a tweet that commemorated the Sept. 11 attacks while showing off its smartphone. Campbell Soup also apologized that year for a tweet by SpaghettiOs asking followers to "Take a moment and



This Oct. 14, 2009 file shows the red and yellow signs with the trademark golden arches of a McDonald's in Pittsburgh. AP

remember #PearlHarbor with us." The tweet featured an image of its smiling cartoon mascot jauntily holding an American flag.

The ad by McDonald's isn't entirely surprising. During an investor meeting last month, McDonald's USA President Mike Andres noted the com-

pany is working with franchisees to strengthen their ties in communities. The majority of the company's more than 14,000 U.S. restaurants are operated by franchisees.

"More than ever, people want to feel good about the businesses and the brands they do business with," he said.

Andres and CEO Don Thompson also highlighted the various ways McDonald's is working to re-energize its business in the U.S., where it has struggled to lift sales for about two years. The meeting came after the company reported a 4.6 percent decline in sales at established locations for November.

Will 'Two and a Half Men' end run with or without Sheen?

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Charlie Sheen left "Two and a Half Men" amid great drama. Whether he'll return for the show's last episode is a mystery.

CBS entertainment chief Nina Tassler ducked the question when pressed at a meeting Monday of the Television Critics Association.

"I can promise you there will be a lot of surprises," Tassler said. Series executive producer Chuck Lorre has promised to deliver "what he's calling a 'mystery sandwich,'" she added.

"Two and a Half Men," which once reigned as TV's top-rated comedy, wraps its 12th and final season this spring.

Sheen was fired in 2011 by studio Warner Bros. Television because of his erratic personal life and public ridicule of his bosses, including Lorre. Charlie Harper, Sheen's character, left along with him: Harper was hit by a subway train in Paris and killed.

Ashton Kutcher joined the series, starring with Jon Cryer.

How the late Charlie Harper could materialize is another secret that Lorre may, or may not, be keeping.

A farmer wants to take a wife on the new 'Bachelor' season

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Soules, a farmer from Arlington, Iowa (population: 429), wants to take a wife on the 19th season of ABC's "The Bachelor."

Soules competed on the last season of "The Bachelorette," where he made it to the final three, but was ultimately rejected by Andi Dorfman because the former Fulton County, Georgia, assistant district attorney couldn't see herself moving to his small town.

Now Soules says he's "in love" and "excited that the whole journey worked."

In a recent interview, Soules said he was confident in the process of finding love on TV.

"I had to leave harvest, which is one of the most intense periods for our farming operation throughout the year. Leaving that all behind, it had to be something I believed in. It put a lot of additional stress on my family," he said.

"The Bachelor" airs Mondays (8 p.m. EST).

AP: How do you remember all the women's names early on in the competition, especially on the first night when there were 30 women?

Soules: It is difficult, especially that first night because you don't get to know them really well and it's hard to put a face with the name. Over time it gets easier because you have relation-



This photo provided by ABC shows Chris Soules in a scene from "The Bachelor," Monday, Jan. 12, 2015 (8:00-10:01 p.m., ET), on the ABC Television Network. AP

ships that are developing. That first night is pretty difficult.

AP: Have you spoken to the woman you picked about how she'll deal with watching the show and seeing you on other dates? Or will she even watch the show?

Soules: I think that she's going back and forth (about whether she'll watch).

AP: After this show, do you anticipate ever buying roses for a woman

again?

Soules: (Laughs.) Maybe we'll just stay away from red.

AP: Did you have a mental checklist about the qualities you were looking for?

Soules: I didn't really have a mental list. What I was looking for was a soul mate—a friend, a person that I could see myself spending the rest of my life with as a partner in life, and someone

I want to raise a family with and who I can spend the rest of my life with. And those things I think you just know when you know.

AP: You had your heart broken on "The Bachelorette." To break hearts is hard, too, and to break so many hearts must have been hard.

Soules: That was the most intense part. Night one I was thinking, 'It won't be that bad because there's gonna be really no serious feelings developed yet,' but even that night was hard. I really second-guessed myself because I hadn't been able to spend that much time with a lot of the women. I went into this very seriously knowing I'm potentially picking my future wife and I was worried about making a mistake.

AP: What about the issue of these women moving to Iowa? I'm sure in the beginning they're excited that you're The Bachelor and wrapped up in the situation, and I'm sure they're all saying, 'Yes I would move! Did that come up?

Soules: That's an issue I knew I'd encounter, and there was some of that where I felt like they were telling me they would be willing to move, but in the back of my mind I kind of questioned if they really meant it or if they really were being honest. It's hard for some to know what it's like being in a small town until they experience it.



Sheen

Kyle MacLachlan returning as agent Cooper in 'Twin Peaks'



PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—When "Twin Peaks" returns to TV, FBI agent Dale Cooper will be along for the ride.

Kyle MacLachlan is reprising the role in Showtime's sequel to the 1990-91 ABC drama, the cable channel said Monday.

Showtime President David Nevins employed a cameo appearance by MacLachlan to make the announcement to a Television Critics Association meeting.

As Nevins spoke to reporters in a hotel ballroom, the actor walked up to him with a cup in hand.

In this Jan. 5, 2015 file photo, Kyle MacLachlan arrives at Portlandia Season 5 Premiere Presented by Bulleit Bourbon at The Theatre at Ace Hotel in Los Angeles.

"I think you need a damn good cup of coffee," a smiling MacLachlan said, reviving a catchphrase of his character.

"Twin Peaks," which eerily posed the question, "Who killed Laura Palmer?" was set in an offbeat Northwestern town. It had a small but devoted following, and some critics have called it ahead of its time and the subsequent era of daring shows.

"I'm very excited to return to the strange and wonderful world of 'Twin Peaks,'" MacLachlan said, adding impishly: "May the forest be with you."

Showtime has said the limited-run series, set in the present day, is going into production this year and will air in 2016.

Original series creators and executive producers David Lynch and Mark Frost had been toying with revisiting

"Twin Peaks" 25 years later, Nevins said.

Nevins said he was "kinda begging them and hoping to pass muster" with Lynch, whose agreement to direct every episode of the limited-run series was seen as crucial by Showtime.

Additional casting has yet to be announced. Nevins also kept plot details to himself while trying to stoke early interest in the series.

Lynch and Frost "have been very specific in promising closure, and that's exciting," Nevins said. "From what I've seen—I won't even say what I've seen—this is going to live up to expectations and then some."

The original series' cast included Michael Ontkean, Lara Flynn Boyle and Sherilyn Fenn.

CBS 'Odd Couple' remake brings back comic vet

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—CBS has brought in an expert to help launch its remake of "The Odd Couple" starring Matthew Perry: the legendary producer who adapted Neil Simon's Broadway play into the television series that starred Jack Klugman and Tony Randall.

Garry Marshall, who went on to create "Happy Days," "LaVerne & Shirley" and "Mork & Mindy," is helping Bob Daily, the new show's executive producer, as a consultant. Cast members say Marshall is on the set each week pitching jokes and telling stories.

Marshall, a neighbor of CBS Corp. chief executive Leslie

Moonves, came on at Moonves' suggestion. Daily said he got into the business partly because of his love for the shows Marshall made, so he was happy to have him. Marshall, 80, said a big factor in coming back was that it's being made in a studio close to his home.

"Just to have Garry's endorsement alone was huge," said Perry, who plays Oscar Madison to co-star Thomas Lennon's Felix Unger.

Marshall said he was happy to revisit the show. "It was the first show that I ever did that was a hit," he said. "It kind of made my career."

Estimated 19.3 million viewers for Globes

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The Nielsen company says an estimated 19.3 million people watched the Golden Globes ceremony on NBC on Sunday night.

That's down from the 20.9 million people who watched the ceremony last year, when it was the most-watched Golden Globes in a

decade. Nielsen said Monday that it represents the most-watched prime-time entertainment program on NBC since the 2014 Golden Globes ceremony.

It marked the third year in a row that Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted the show; they've said this would be their final year.

His involvement was a reminder how times had changed since the original sitcom aired on ABC from 1970 to 1975. In the 1970s, the show had no women writers. Marshall said ABC wanted to have as many women actresses around the two lead characters as possible because the network thought viewers might believe they were gay.

Daily, a former writer on "Frasier," said the concept of "The Odd Couple" is durable and it was time to update it.

"The funniest joke in the pilot was written 45 years ago," Perry said.

R&B artist The Weeknd accused of hitting officer in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—

The Canadian R&B artist known as The Weeknd was arrested in Las Vegas after police say he hit an officer in the head.



Las Vegas Police Officer Laura Meltzer Tesfaye wasn't listed on the jail roster on Monday.

Meltzer says police were trying to break up a fight on one of the floors when Tesfaye hit an officer on the side of the head with a closed fist.

She says it doesn't appear that the officer was seriously hurt.

The Weeknd was scheduled for a concert Friday at Drai's Nightclub. He is featured on Ariana Grande's "Love Me Harder."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Disgraced designer John Galliano returns to catwalk

LONDON (AP)—Designer John Galliano, who left fashion in disgrace in 2011 after making anti-Semitic comments in a Paris bar, has returned with a debut show for fashion house Maison Martin Margiela. Galliano, who took the creative helm for the Paris label last autumn, showed a small couture collection to a carefully selected audience of about 100 in London on Monday. The highly anticipated show marked a comeback from the flamboyant designer, once one of fashion's brightest stars, who all but disappeared from the industry after he was caught on video slurring "I love Hitler" in 2011. He was dismissed from Christian Dior and left his namesake label, and was convicted by a French court on complaints of anti-Semitic behavior.

Trump sues for \$100M over flights above ritzy Florida club

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida (AP)—Donald Trump is complaining again about the roar of jets in a \$100 million lawsuit over air traffic he says is purposely being directed to fly over his ritzy Palm Beach club. Trump filed the suit against Palm Beach County last week, claiming his history of conflict with Palm Beach International Airport has led officials to spitefully redirect air traffic over his historic Mar-a-Lago estate in south Florida. "I am saving one of the great houses of this country and one of its greatest landmarks," he said in an interview Monday, "and it's being badly damaged by the airplanes." Rather than fanning air traffic in multiple directions, Trump says the county's airports director—who has been named in prior litigation filed by the real estate mogul—has successfully pressured the Federal Aviation Administration to have controllers direct almost all flights due east, directly above Mar-a-Lago, the lawsuit claims. It calls the actions "deliberate and malicious."

Before you lose your cool, find out what makes you hot

DEAR ABBY: I'm a good person, but when I get frustrated over something, I fly off the handle. I date, have several close friends and a good job in a field I enjoy.

Stresses in life are normal. But sometimes I blow up over things. When it happens, I can see my co-workers and friends are taken aback by my behavior. I need to improve this. I'm worried my explosive temper will affect my relationships, my job and the people I see socially. I heard you have a booklet about this issue. Where can I get one, and do you have any advice for me?

HOT AND BOTHERED IN ATLANTA

DEAR HOT AND BOTHERED: Yes, I do. While anger is a normal emotion, the problem with a hair-trigger temper is that people who fly off the handle often shoot themselves in the foot. That's why it's important to develop tools to recognize, control and channel anger effectively without exploding.

A first step in doing that is to analyze what may be setting you off. Does being overtired, hungry or not feeling up to par cause you to lash out? Feeling vulnerable has been known to make people feel angry and has negatively affected relation-

ships. When a person's beliefs or values are questioned, they can become angry and, believe it or not, low self-esteem causes people to fly off the handle. People who suffer from feelings of inadequacy constantly try to prove themselves — which drives them to win every "battle" whether it's a discussion about sports or any other subject that arises.

Most adults learn from early childhood to manage anger. But it's equally important to learn to EXPRESS anger in ways that are constructive. In my booklet "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It," I offer tools for channeling anger. (First among them is to recognize you are becoming angry before losing control.) It also contains suggestions for managing and expressing anger appropriately. It can be ordered by sending your name and mailing address, plus a check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price. I hope it will be helpful for you. It takes maturity to identify and verbalize negative emotions rather than lash out at others. Being able to calmly say, "When you do that (or say that) it makes me angry" will earn you the respect of others. And it's

DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE**

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



the key to defusing anger before losing control.

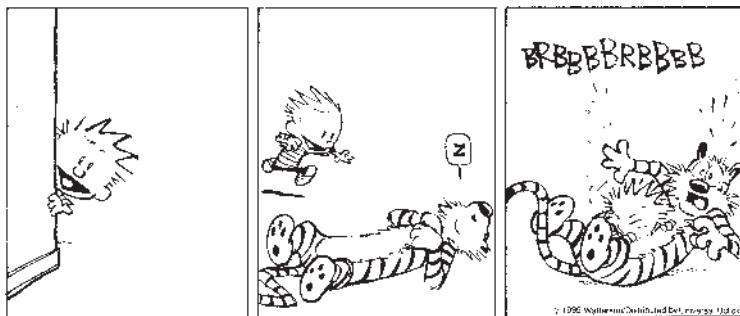
DEAR ABBY: What are my financial obligations if I invite a gentleman to a formal out-of-state wedding? Must I pay 100 percent for airfare, hotel, meals and clothing?

PROPER MISS IN OHIO

DEAR PROPER MISS: If the man is a gentleman, he will offer to split the cost of the airfare, hotel and meals with you. If he's not—or can't afford it—then the person footing the bills will be you and only you.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



Garfield®

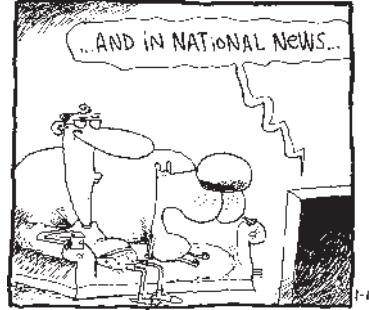


By Jim Davis

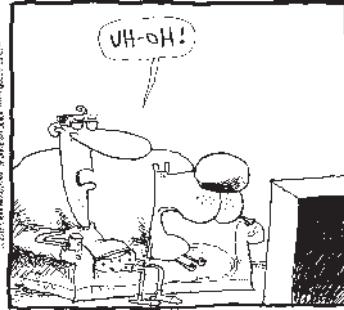


By Jim Davis

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		39	Car	2	Do mail-	22	Paper	23	Hold off	24	On	25	Big	26	Pedestal	27	Can't	28	Fail to hit	29	Mine	30	"Mission	31	Logical	32	Predicament	33	Mingle	34	Winter	35	Opposite	36	"post-	37	and	38	—	39	Actor	40	Winter	41	—	42	Opposite	43	of "post-	44	—	45	—	46	Actor	47	Run	48	McGregor	49	Tear	50	Foreman	51	Stein or	52	Opposite	53	Stiller	54	of "post-	55	Gesture	56	Have bills	57	Play	58	Skillet	59	Star Wars"	60	Mathematician	61	about	62	Capote	63	Star Wars"	64	Mathematician	65	Good example	66	Play	67	Heche or	68	Movie	69	With a 2,	70	With a 2,	71	Movie	72	With a 2,	73	Play	74	Hathaway	75	With a 2,	76	Play	77	Heche or	78	Movie	79	With a 2,	80	Play	81	Hathaway	82	With a 2,	83	Movie	84	With a 2,	85	Play	86	Hathaway	87	With a 2,	88	Movie	89	With a 2,	90	Play	91	Hathaway	92	With a 2,	93	Movie	94	With a 2,	95	Play	96	Hathaway	97	With a 2,	98	Movie	99	With a 2,	100	Play	101	Hathaway	102	With a 2,	103	Movie	104	With a 2,	105	Play	106	Hathaway	107	With a 2,	108	Movie	109	With a 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Rematches: Colts-Patriots, Packers-Seahawks



SEATTLE (AP)—You again.

Not that the Patriots and Seahawks are likely to mind seeing who has joined them in the NFL's conference championships. Remember, New England routed Indianapolis 42-20 and Seattle romped over Green Bay 36-16 to open the season.

Rematches at the final step to reaching the Super Bowl have been common recently. In the AFC, from 2009-14, only in 2011 was the conference championship not a repeat meeting. In the NFC, it happened in 2010, 2011, 2013 and this season.

Twice in the NFC, intradivision matchups meant a third game between rivals: 2010 when Green Bay won at Chicago, and 2013, when Seattle beat San Francisco.

Not one of the others has involved teams from the same division. Excluding 2014 - if you know now who is going to win next Sunday, please clue us in - in those rematches, the regular-season winner also won the AFC playoff game only once: Baltimore over New England in 2012.

In the NFC, the Giants lost to the 49ers during the regular schedule, but beat them in overtime in the conference title match.

Rematches are a double-edged sword. The victor in the first meeting has the confidence of already owning a win and the knowledge that more than enough worked during that regular-season game to handle the opponent. The loser has the revenge factor - and maybe a touch more motivation.

"I'd like to think I'm a better quarterback and we're a better team and more well-equipped to handle the unknown and the unforeseen," Colts QB Andrew Luck said.

"I think we've got a bunch of good football players, and a chance to go up New England and play them and get another crack at it is awesome. We'll make sure to take full advantage of it and do what we can."

The Colts did plenty on Sunday in dominating Denver, avenging their opening loss of 2014. They also saw the Patriots struggle, twice falling into 14-point holes before rallying to defeat Baltimore on Saturday.

As Patriots coach Bill Belichick noted, dryly of course: "I don't think that's a formula to win a lot of playoff games. They're a tough group and they never give up, no matter what the situation is."

The upcoming situation is simply this: Luck and the Colts have the look of a rising power after two highly impressive postseason performances. New England showed some vulnerability that Luck, who led the NFL with 40 TD passes, and a rapidly improving defense just might be able to take advantage of.

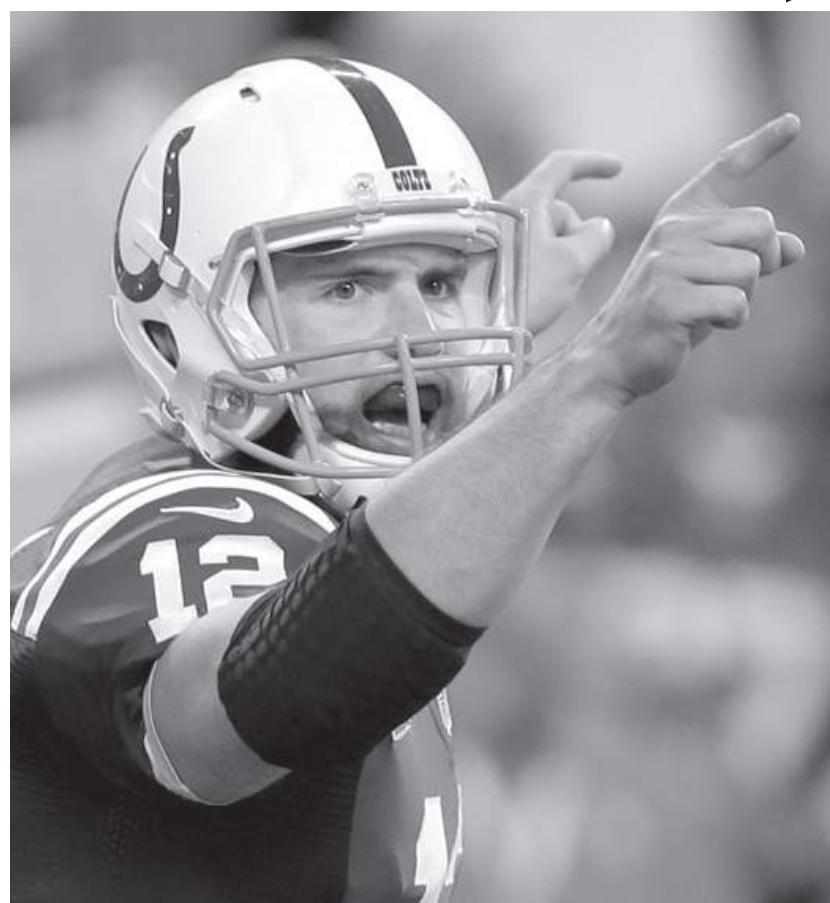
Of course, after vanquishing Peyton Manning and the Broncos, Indy gets Tom Brady, the most accomplished postseason quarterback of his era.

"That's how it works in the playoffs," safety Mike Adams says. "Everybody we play is top-tier. Everybody we play is big time. We got to step our game up and be ready."

Even more intriguing might be the NFC matchup.

Seattle was on a, well, Super high for the season's traditional kickoff game, and the defending NFL champs dismantled Green Bay. Then the Seahawks went into a funk and, at one point were 3-3.

They are now 13-4 and have that mean, hungry, determined, versatile



At left, in a Nov. 30, 2014, file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck celebrates a 79-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Donte Moncrief against the Washington Redskins during the second half of an NFL football game in Indianapolis. At right, in a Sept. 29, 2014, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady points on the line of scrimmage during the first quarter of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs in Kansas City, Mo. AP

SIDE BAR

John Fox out after 4 AFC West titles, 4 playoff nosedives

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—John Elway is looking for a new coach after agreeing to part ways with John Fox following Denver's latest playoff meltdown.

Fox won the AFC West all four of his years in Denver, but each of those seasons ended in ugly fashion in the playoffs, culminating with Sunday's 24-13 upset by Indianapolis.

Fox might already have something in the works with another franchise - he didn't shoot down a pregame report Sunday night that he could be available if the Broncos lost.

Neither Fox nor Elway would say what was discussed Monday when they met other than it was time to split up.

"It became clear that it was best for both the Denver Broncos and Coach Fox to move on and make this change," Elway said in a statement.

So, Fox is out after going 49-22 in Denver, including the playoffs, following a 78-74 record in nine years with the Carolina Panthers, counting the postseason.

Fox gathered his players at noon Monday but didn't talk about his own future. Chris Harris Jr. said Fox's message was "just that he appreciated everybody's efforts. He loved us and everybody just be smart in the offseason and make sure you take care of your body to be ready to come back ready to roll when OTAs start."

Two hours later, Elway met with Fox and told the assistant coaches they remain under contract but were free to pursue jobs with other teams.

The players had left when the news

and, yes, invincible air about them.

"Guys are playing selfless. There aren't any egos, there aren't any agendas, and guys just want to do whatever it takes to win," All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman said.

"If that means making a tackle, then

broke, and several reacted bluntly on Twitter.

"Cold World ...," wrote Demaryius Thomas.

"Wow ...," said Omar Bolden.

"Damn," tweeted Terrance Knighton.

The Broncos went 8-8 in Fox's first year, when Tebowmania was in full pitch. The stakes were raised when Denver won the Peyton Manning sweepstakes and replaced Tim Tebow in 2012.

Manning was murky about his future Sunday night, saying he had to process this latest loss before deciding whether to play an 18th NFL season. He wasn't in the locker room Monday.

Elway thanked Fox for helping "establish a positive, winning culture for this team" and said he "deserves a lot of credit for the Broncos' turnaround," but added "there is still work to be done" to win a Super Bowl.

Fox characterized his meeting with Elway as productive and honest and the two "mutually agreed that the timing was right for this decision."

"Although we came up short of our ultimate goal, I am proud of our team's many accomplishments during these last four years," Fox said in a statement. "It was an honor to coach the Denver Broncos, a first-class franchise with great fans and a winning tradition."

"I am eager to continue my coaching career and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead," Fox added.

Fox became the only coach in NFL history to win a dozen consecutive divisional road games on his way to an

make the tackle; if that means catching the football, we're going to catch the football. Guys are playing for one another, they don't care about stats, nor do they care about anything else."

Sounds a lot like Green Bay, which displayed the resilience of a champion-

unprecedented four straight AFC West titles in Denver. But the goal when Manning came on board was Super Bowl trophies. Instead, Manning is 2-3 in the playoffs with the Broncos.

Elway brought Fox to Denver in the aftermath of the Josh McDaniels era, saying he was looking for someone who could breathe some positive vibes into a locker room that had been beaten down as McDaniels' 6-0 start in 2009 turned sour and resulted in his firing midway through 2010.

Fox's first task was figuring out what to do with Tebow, and the coach's flexibility showed, when he completely remade his offense for Tebow after sticking him in the starting lineup in Game 6 of the 2011 season. Denver won seven of the next 11 games and finished 8-8, which was good enough to win the middling AFC West.

Tebow threw the winning touchdown pass to Demaryius Thomas in overtime in the wild card game against Pittsburgh, which set up an ugly—but understandable—45-10 loss to New England in the divisional round.

Then came Manning, along with the Super Bowl aspirations that accompanied the future Hall of Famer's arrival.

The Broncos finished the 2012 regular season with 11 straight wins and were shocked when they lost 38-35 to Baltimore in double overtime at home in the divisional playoffs. Fox came under scrutiny after that one - too conservative - mostly for kneeling on the ball with 31 seconds left after the Ravens completed a

long touchdown pass to tie the game.

But in 2013, at Manning's urging, the Broncos were anything but conservative - going to a hurry-up offense that helped Manning and the offense set passing and scoring records on their way to the Super Bowl. That beautiful season ended ugly, as Seattle clogged the passing lanes in a 43-8 victory - a result that compelled Elway to spend \$60 million in guarantees on new defensive players, with the thinking that his quarterback shouldn't have to win it all by himself.

Those offseason changes mostly muted a debate about Fox's ability to get his team ready for big games, but the coach came under more scrutiny midway through 2014 when the Broncos revamped their offense, and started focusing on the run more.

Manning's attempts and completions went way down following a 22-7 loss to St. Louis in which Denver ran only nine times in 64 snaps. The Broncos looked more like a Fox team in the true, grind-it-out sense, winning the division for the fourth straight time and hosting a divisional playoff game for the third year in a row.

But for the second time in those three years, they were stunned at home.

There are several teams looking for a new head coach. Denver defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio has a second interview set up with the Raiders, and offensive coordinator Adam Gase interviewed with the 49ers, Falcons, Bears and Bills, who hired Rex Ryan. He might also get a look from Elway now.

Just like the Seahawks, the Packers are vastly improved from midseason.

And equally as hungry.

"Looking forward to going back up to Seattle," coach Mike McCarthy says, "and looking forward to winning the NFC championship."

Rockets rout Nets after Howard-Garnett fight



NEW YORK (AP)—Dwight Howard's face might have been stinging from Kevin Garnett ramming his head into it, and now his ears were ringing as fans directed loud boos toward him.

Howard wasn't tempted to silence them by demanding the ball at the expense of Houston's offense. He was after a win, not revenge.

"As long as we win the game, that's all that matters," Howard said. "We've got 82 games and the playoffs. I'll do my damage when it's time."

James Harden scored 30 points, carrying Houston on a night when Howard did little after fighting with Garnett, and the Rockets beat the slumping Brooklyn Nets 113-99 on Monday.

Garnett was ejected in the first quarter after head-butting Howard in the face and throwing the ball at him, while Howard received a technical foul after appearing to punch or slap Garnett in the neck.

Howard finished with eight points and five rebounds, but the Rockets didn't need much in the middle while dominating from the outside with 16 3-pointers in 40 attempts.

The only time they really were stopped is when referees halted the action to review video of the scuffle.

"I think we've been locked in these last few games and so a little hesitation wasn't going to stop us from our goal, and that was to win the game," Harden said.

Mason Plumlee scored a career-high 24 points for the Nets, who lost their sixth straight.

"Kevin did a lot for us, got us going," Plumlee said of Garnett, who didn't speak to reporters. "Those are the kind of games as a team you want to win and we didn't do that."

Houston has won four in a row, all by double digits, and blew away a Nets team that had held its previous eight opponents under 100 points, the longest



streak in the NBA this season.

The Nets consistently lost Houston's shooters on the perimeter, and the Rockets easily surpassed their NBA-best average of 11.8 3-pointers per game.

They already had 17 points before Garnett became angry after he was called for a foul against Howard with 7:53 left in the first quarter. The players lightly shoved each other before Garnett threw the ball into Howard's back, and as the players went face-to-face, Garnett rammed his head into the area near Howard's mouth.

Howard responded with his right hand, and even after the players were separated, Garnett

tried to get at Howard again before being escorted toward the locker room.

"In the good old days that was a play-on, now they throw people out," Rockets coach Kevin McHale said. "I don't think it was that big of a deal."

Pistons 114, Raptors 111

In Toronto, Brandon Jennings had 34 points and 10 assists, and Detroit won for the ninth time in 10 games.

Greg Monroe had 22 points and 10 rebounds as the Pistons snapped a four-game losing streak against Toronto. Jodie Meeks scored 11 of his 13

points in the fourth quarter and Jonas Jerebko had eight of his 10 in the final period.

Jonas Valanciunas scored a career-best 31 points and had 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who lost for the fifth time in six games. Kyle Lowry had 10 points and 12 assists, Greivis Vasquez scored 16 and Lou Williams had 15.

Andre Drummond also had a double-double in Detroit's sixth consecutive road win, finishing with 10 points and 14 rebounds.

Magic 121, Bulls 114

In Chicago, Nikola Vucevic had 33 points and 11 rebounds, and the Magic snapped a six-game

Houston Rockets' Patrick Beverley, left, drives against Brooklyn Nets' Mason Plumlee (1) during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in New York. Houston beat Brooklyn, 113-99.

losing streak.

Orlando shot a season-high 59 percent from the field in its first win in Chicago since an 83-82 victory on Dec. 16, 2013. The Magic had lost three in a row and 12 of 15 against the Bulls since the start of the 2010-11 season.

Victor Oladipo also scored 33 points for the Magic. Vucevic was 16 for 24 from the field in his NBA-best 23rd double-double of the season.

Pau Gasol paced Chicago with 28 points and 14 rebounds, and Derrick Rose had 18 points and seven assists.

Celtics 108, Pelicans 100

In Boston, Jared Sullinger had 27 points and 10 rebounds for Boston, and rookie Marcus Smart nailed a key 3-pointer in the closing minute.

The Celtics won for the third time in their last 12 games. Jae Crowder scored 22 points, Marcus Thornton had 13 and Brandon Bass finished with 12.

Anthony Davis led the Pelicans with 34 points, nine rebounds and four assists. Eric Gordon scored 21 points, and Tyreke Evans had 19 points and eight boards.

Clinging to a 101-100 lead, Avery Bradley's shot was blocked by Davis in the lane, before Smart nailed a 3 from the left corner, falling into the seats as the shot swished through the basket with 39.7 seconds left.

SIDE BAR

Nothing coming easy for Spurs as they defend title

WASHINGTON (AP)—Not long before the San Antonio Spurs were set to tip-off against the Minnesota Timberwolves last weekend, coach Gregg Popovich found out that Manu Ginobili and Marco Belinelli were not going to be available because of injuries.

It was the latest in a series of unexpected obstacles that have gotten in the Spurs' way during their first title defense since the 2007-08 season.

"Manu was a surprise losing him. Losing Bellie today makes us, you know, a little bit paranoid," Popovich confessed before the Spurs easily dispatched the lowly Wolves, 108-93.

Paranoid? The Spurs? In January?

The Spurs have spent almost 20 years turning the NBA's regular season into nothing more than a six-month warmup for the playoffs.

They manage minutes, develop bench players and set recovery times from injury with an eye not on winning games in the regular season, but making sure the team is adequately prepared and rested for the 2 1/2-month post-season grind.

Popovich has perfected the art of the 82-game ramp-up, never getting overly concerned about how the team is playing in winter so long as they are progressing to where they need to be come spring time. And that's easy to do when the Spurs also own the best regular season winning percentage in the league over the past decade.

But after the Spurs took their game to heights rarely

seen in steam-rolling through the playoffs and beating the Miami Heat for the franchise's fifth championship last June, they are in the unfamiliar position of chasing the pack.

They are 23-15, good for just seventh in the powerful Western Conference and three games behind sixth-seeded Dallas.

"We had that tough schedule last month, and we put ourselves in a hole. It's a long season, and it's time, we've got time to fight back," Tim Duncan said. "But we've got to start now. We've got to start focusing, concentrating on racking up the wins no matter where it is whether it's home or on the road or whoever it's against."

They have dealt with a litany of injuries that has really prevented them from finding any kind of a groove this season. The Spurs went 8-10 in December - the first time in the Duncan era that they lost more games than they won in a month. And it has injected an uncommon sense of urgency in a team that rarely sweats the standings this early in the season.

"Every game is going to mean something," Popovich said. "We're disappointed we're in the position we are. We lost some games we could have won. And we were just injured at the wrong time. December was a heck of a month for us schedule-wise, and being injured at that time was tough."

Kawhi Leonard, Tiago Splitter and Tony Parker have all missed big chunks of time with injuries while Manu Ginobili and Belinelli have suffered the nagging, more minor variety.

Reed rallies to win Kapalua in playoff



KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Patrick Reed never thought he had a serious chance to win at Kapalua until he stood over an 18-foot birdie putt in a playoff Monday.

Like so many other times in his young career, he didn't waste it.

Four shots behind with four holes to play, Reed made two birdies, holed an 80-yard shot for eagle and got just enough help from Jimmy Walker to win the Hyundai Tournament of Champions for his fourth career PGA Tour victory.

"I thought my chances were slim," Reed said. "So I was just thinking to myself, 'Let's try to birdie three of the last four and get ourselves a chance to secure

second alone, and give ourselves a chance - just maybe."

A two-putt birdie on the par-5 15th. The wedge he holed on the 16th for eagle. And after a three-putt from 100 feet just off the green at 17 slowed his momentum, Reed two-putted for birdie from 80 feet on the par-5 18th for a 6-under 67.

Then it was up to Walker, who appeared to have control until he tried to play it safe off the tee on the short par-4 14th and found a bunker, leading to his first bogey in 33 holes at Kapalua. Walker twice missed birdie putts inside 10 feet, and he missed an 18-foot birdie putt for the win in regulation.

He closed with a 69 to join Reed at 21-under 271.

In the playoff, Walker's chip went over the green, and he had a 6-foot par putt that he never had to hit when Reed made his winning putt.

"It was there for me to win," Walker said. "It was a bummer I didn't close the door on it."

The 24-year-old Reed joined some elite company as the fifth player in the last 25 years to win at least four times on the PGA Tour before turning 25. The others were Rory McIlroy, Sergio Garcia, Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

"Everyone is trying to get to the best in the world," Reed said. "But that's going to take a long time. It's nothing that happens overnight."

The trick is to win, and Reed already has shown he

has that knack with his fourth win in his last 35 starts on the PGA Tour. But it was his first victory since the World Golf Championship at Doral, where he caused a stir by saying he was among the top five players in the world.

This moved him to a career-best No. 14, though he was more interested in what he could do get better.

Jason Day became the second player on Monday to tie the Plantation Course record with a 62 - Chris Kirk shot 62 earlier in the day as the first player out. Day posted at 20-under 272, though that score never looked as though it would be enough. Russell Henley closed with five straight birdies for a 67 to join Day at 272.

Popovich has perfected the art of the 82-game ramp-up, never getting overly concerned about how the team is playing in winter so long as they are progressing to where they need to be come spring time. And that's easy to do when the Spurs also own the best regular season winning percentage in the league over the past decade.

But after the Spurs took their game to heights rarely

3 clinch SGA Aces of the Aces spots

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

 Manny Alvarez, John "Nani" Cruz, and Steve Balakrishna clinched the last three berths for the Saipan Golfers Association's Ace of the Aces Tournament, which is set this weekend at the Marianas Country Club.

The three either placed second or third in separate monthly aces but earned the trip to the season-ending tournament as the first place finishers had already assured of berths in the SGA's Ace of the Aces.

Alvarez finished with a 70 in the October Ace held on Sept. 28 at Coral Ocean Golf Resort to place second and two shots behind Larry Deleon Guerrero's 68.

Deleon Guerrero, however,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Golfers Association members pose for a group photo during one of their monthly tournaments last year at the Marianas Country Club.

was the SGA September Ace, allowing Alvarez to take the October crown. Tony Deleon Guerrero came in third (70), while January Ace Nick Sablan (No. 4), Jung Eun Teack (No. 6), Cruz (No. 11), and Larry

Deleon Guerrero (No. 15) were the closest to the pins winners.

Greg Sablan (No. 2) and Rick Kautz (No. 18) were the longest drive winners.

Greg Sablan also topped the November Ace on Nov. 16 at

MCC and since he already won the June event, Cruz was declared the monthly champion.

Kautz, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, Juan Lizama, and Tony Deleon Guerrero finished third to sixth, respectively.

Nick Sablan (No. 6), May Ace Frances Sablan (No. 8), Teack (No. 12) and Kautz (No. 18) were the closest to the pin winners for November, while Greg Sablan (No. 2) and Juan Babauta (No. 11) had the longest drives.

In the December event, Balakrishna's 76 was good enough for third place behind Teack's 70 and Manibusan's 75, but the former bagged the monthly crown since the last two golfers had already ruled the July and August games. Juan Pan Guerrero came in at fourth with a 76.

Manibusan (No. 3), Babauta (No. 7), Teack (No. 12) and Tony Deleon Guerrero (No. 14) were the closest to pin winners last month, while February Ace James "Jimbo" Nelson (No. 6) and Nick Sablan (No. 8) had the longest drives.

Alex Tudela (March) and Das Krishnan (April) were the other Ace of the Month winners who qualified in the Ace of the Aces tournament.

The teeoff for the Jan. 17 opening day of the Ace of the Aces tournament is at 1pm, while the Sunday event starts at 10am. The weekend competition will be held at MCC, while the awards banquet is set at the Pacific Island Club on Sunday evening.

OHIO

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accepted their final mission, their final assignment and their final directive, and they did it. That was our whole mantra this last couple of weeks. A job well done, and we're very grateful."

Ohio State began the first major college football playoff as the fourth and final seed, and as a team that faced questions about whether it belonged at all. It was a team that never would have had a chance to win a title under the old postseason system.

No question about it now: Ohio State is the truest champion big-time football has ever crowned, showered by golden confetti as its band played "Hang on Sloopy" when the clock hit 0:00.

Meyer's Buckeyes overcame

two injured Heisman contenders and one awful early season loss at home to Virginia Tech to win their first national title since 2002. Back then, the Bowl Championship Series decided the top team at the end of the season - usually.

Before that, it was up to The Associated Press and coaches' polls to sort out which team was best, with a little help from the bowls. The Buckeyes have three of those championships, too.

And Meyer now has three, adding this one for his home state team to the two he won for Florida. It's taken just three seasons in Columbus for Meyer to put the Buckeyes—and the Big Ten—back on top, with a team that looks built to last.

Elliott, a sophomore, ran for 246 yards and four touchdowns on 36 carries. In the last three games against Wisconsin, Alabama and Oregon, Elliott had

696 yards rushing.

"It was our dream. It came true," Elliott said. "With all the stuff we went through to get here, it's just crazy. It doesn't feel real."

Jones, who took over three games ago for the injured J.T. Barrett (who had taken over at the start of the season for the injured Braxton Miller), passed for 242 yards and a touchdown and ran for score. The 250-pound third-year sophomore proved he could keep up with Mariota—at least on this night.

Mariota passed for 333 yards and two touchdowns, but the Ducks' warp-speed spread offense missed too many red-zone opportunities and couldn't unleash its running game against linebacker Darren Lee and an Ohio State front seven stacked with future NFL draft picks.

Even with the benefit of four Ohio State turnovers, the Ducks

were held to their lowest point total of the season, four touchdowns below their average coming in.

Oregon has done just about everything as it has blossomed into a national power over the last two decades, but it will likely continue the search for its first national championship without Mariota. Barring a major surprise, the junior is likely to turn pro - though he wouldn't talk about his upcoming draft decision Monday night.

Elliott scored the game's last three touchdowns, finishing off the rout with a 1-yarder with 28 seconds left.

While Elliott slipped and darted through the Ducks, Jones pushed them around and shook them off.

When Jones surged and spun his way into the end zone with 4:49 left in the second quarter it was 21-7 Ohio State and the O! H! I! O! chant made the dome in North Texas sound like the horseshoe in Columbus. The

Ducks were facing their largest deficit of the season.

If there was any concern that fans wouldn't travel to the championship game in the new postseason system, the packed house at the home of the Dallas Cowboys, awash in Buckeyes' scarlet and Ducks' yellow, put that to rest. The crowd of 85,689 was as charged as any BCS national championship game.

The Ducks' fans awoke early in the third quarter.

Ohio State was driving on the first possession of the second half toward more points when Jones' pass bounced off Jalin Marshall's chest and into the arms of Danny Mattingly for Ohio State's third turnover. Unlike the first two Oregon takeaways, the Ducks turned this one into points in a hurry. Mariota hit Byron Marshall on a slant and he streaked 70 yards for a touchdown, barely breaking the goal line before nonchalantly dropping the ball.

The rest of the night turned into a Buckeyes Bash.

BUCKEYES'

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star who beamed while the team celebrated on the field.

"The improvement in the offensive line was one of the biggest differences in this team this year," he said. "They got better week in and week out. To take control against Alabama like they did in the last game and then pound Oregon tonight, I'm really proud of them."

After second-seeded Oregon moved quickly through the Buckeyes defense for a touchdown on the opening drive, Ohio State had to punt. The next time the Buckeyes got their hands on the ball, they put together a 97-yard march that might have salvaged their season.

Jones, with plenty of time to throw thanks to the slogs, completed 26-yard passes to first Corey Smith and then Jalin Marshall. On second and 10 at the Oregon 33, Elliott raced away from a possible tackler at the line and then outran the

Ducks secondary for the touchdown. The score not only electrified the thousands of Ohio State fans at AT&T Stadium, it was a sign that the Buckeyes planned on being in this for the long haul.

Elliott was far from done.

Ohio State forged a 14-7 lead after forcing another punt by the Ducks. Elliott accounted for exactly half of the yards on the 46-yard drive, including a 17-yard burst to the Oregon 1 that set up Jones' 1-yard TD toss to Nick Vannett.

Despite four turnovers, Ohio State remained in control for most of the game—thanks to the muscle up front and the power in the backfield.

By halftime, Elliott had 98 yards on 11 carries and Ohio State had accumulated 315 yards of total offense against a defense that was giving up 421 yards per game.

After Oregon pulled to a 21-20 deficit Elliott and Co. took over again.

On the last play of the third period, Elliott powered over

two tacklers at the goal line on a 9-yard touchdown run that helped the Buckeyes staunch the Ducks' momentum.

He then covered the final 2 yards for another touchdown that gave Ohio State some breathing room, 35-20 at 9:44 of the final period.

It's hard to fathom how far the line and the running game have come. The Buckeyes rushed for 194 yards (on 40 carries) in the comeback win against Navy to open the season, and then they looked dismal with just 108 yards on 40 carries in the 35-21 loss to Virginia Tech in Week Two.

Look what a difference 40 carries makes. Elliott went for 220 yards on 20 carries in a 59-0 rout of Wisconsin and then picked up 230 yards—again on 20 carries—in a 42-35 win over top-ranked Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

The Buckeyes ended up with 538 yards of offense in a showing that brought Ohio State its first national championship since the 2002 season.

DUCKS

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Playoff championship.

It may have been Mariota's final game at Oregon. He has until Thursday to decide if he will skip his senior season and declare for the NFL draft. Mariota, who has already completed his degree, is expected to be a top pick.

Despite the loss, the soft-spoken, lead-by-example team leader had a stellar season.

In addition to the Heisman, Mariota was named AP Player of the Year and the Pac-12's offensive player of the year. He also won the Maxwell Award and Walter Camp player of the year, along with the Davey O'Brien and Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, which go to the nation's top quarterback.

He set conference records for most touchdowns in a single season with 58. He had 42 via pass, 15 on the run and a touch-

down catch. He has also set the conference mark for career touchdowns with 134. He has also thrown at least one touchdown pass in all 41 games he has started in his career, the second-longest streak in NCAA history behind Marshall's Raekem Cato (46). And he's one of four quarterbacks in FBS history to pass for more than 10,000 yards and run for more than 2,000 in his career.

All season his bold moves on the field belied his shy demeanor or off it. Against Wyoming he flipped into the end zone for a touchdown, and against Arizona he caught a touchdown pass from running back Royce Freeman.

But he faced challenges against Ohio State.

Oregon's receiver corps was hit earlier in the week when redshirt freshman Darren Carrington was declared ineligible for the game because of a failed NCAA drug test. Carrington did

not travel to Texas for the biggest game of the season. The team had already lost freshman receiver Devon Allen, who also runs on Oregon's track team, on the opening kickoff of the Ducks' 59-20 victory over Florida State in the Rose Bowl.

Junior tight end Pharaoh Brown had six touchdown passes for the Ducks this season before he sustained a season-ending knee injury against Utah. And before the season started, junior receiver Bralon Addison tore a ligament in his left knee.

That left Oregon, which regularly uses three-and four-receiver formations, with just Dwayne Stanford, Keanon Lowe, Charles Nelson and converted running back Byron Marshall.

While Mariota found Lowe on Oregon's opening drive with a 7-yard touchdown pass, both Nelson and Stanford dropped third-down passes in the first half and the Ducks trailed 21-10.

Cepeda pitches Brewers to easy win

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

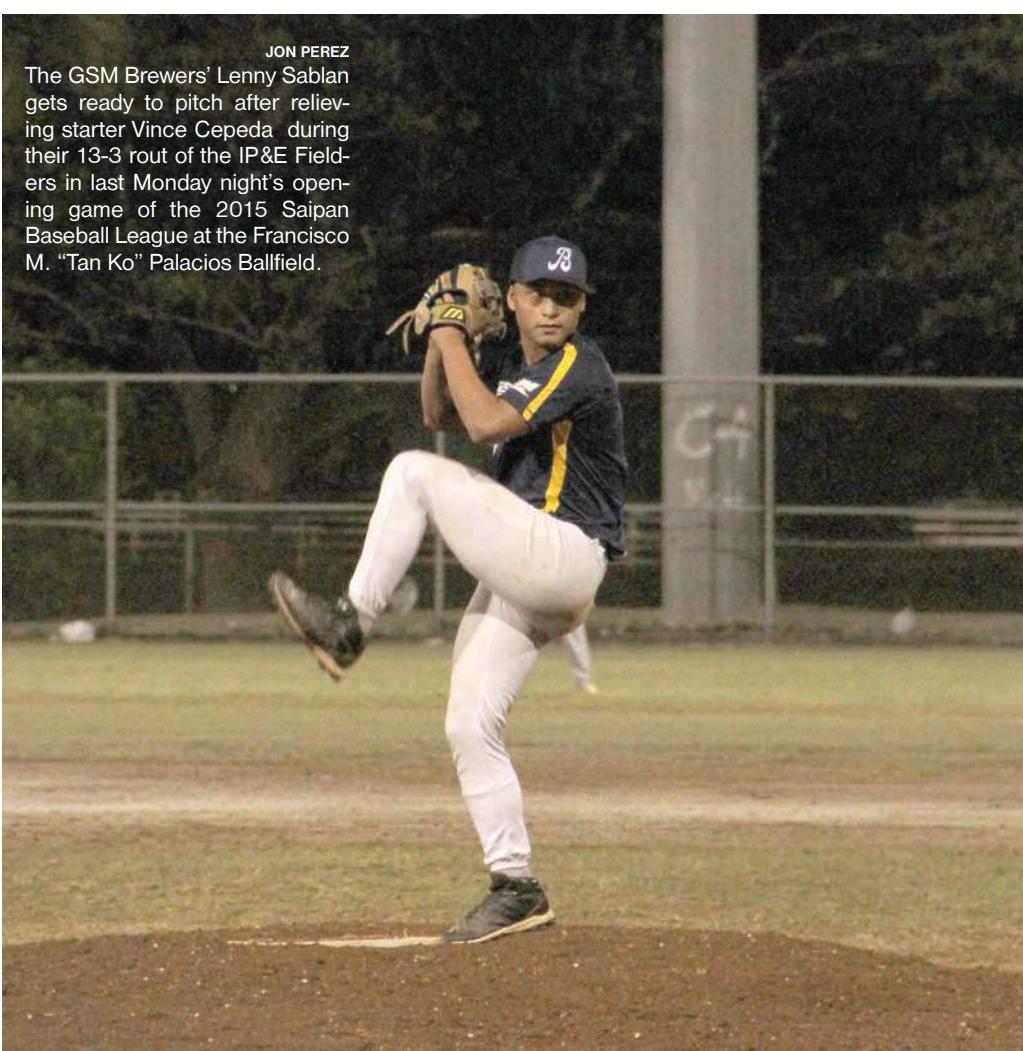
 Vince Cepeda was almost unhittable all game long to lead the defending champion GSM Brewers to a 13-3 rout of the IP&E Fielders in last Monday's opening game of the 2015 Saipan Baseball League season at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Cepeda was on the mound for six complete innings and allowed no earned runs on 4 hits while recording 11 striking outs and 4 walks.

Lenny Sablan pitched one inning in relief, giving up one hit and posting two strikeouts to complete the Brewers' easy victory.

Cepeda and Sablan also had plenty of help from veterans Roy Celis, Jun Rabauliman, Nokki Saralu, and Marvin Kai-pat as the Brewers' offense peppered the Fielders' bullpen—composed of Tom Agulto, Jimmy Brel, and Joe Palacios with a combined 15 hits.

Celis, a member of the silver-medal winning CNMI men's national baseball team in the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei, went 3-for-5 with three singles, a run, and an RBI. Rabauliman and Saralu combined for four runs on 5-for-7 batting. Kai-pat, who played at right field, scored



one run on 2-for-4 at bat with 3 RBIs.

The Brewers, holding on to a slim 1-0 lead after two innings, went to work in the third where the rout started.

With the bases loaded, former CNMI sprinter Tyrone Omar

reached home on a Byron Kai-pat walk, while Saralu added one more run after Agulto walked Ray Saralu.

The Brewers scored three more times in that inning courtesy of Rabauliman, Byron Kai-pat, and Ray Saralu and then

used another five-run inning in the fifth to pull away.

In other news, SBL coordinator Tony Rogolifo said they are looking for a sponsor to help them fix the lights of the scoreboard at the Palacios ballfield.

Entry by numbers in Pacific Games due Friday

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael A. White is reminding all member federations sending athletes to the 2014 Pacific Games to submit their final entry by numbers on or before Jan. 16.

White said that Friday will be the deadline and failing to meet it only means the federation is not going to compete in the 15th Pacific Games set from July 4 to 18 in Port Moresby, Papua New

Guinea.

Athletics, beach volleyball, bodybuilding, golf, swimming, and triathlon have earlier signified their intention to join the quadrennial sporting event, while canoe (va'a) has yet to inform White but had conducted a try-out for a seven-member men's team.

Tennis has pulled out as Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation official Jeff Race said they couldn't find a coach for the team composed

of four male and two female players. He added that the Commonwealth's junior netters will be joining other tournaments this year.

Athletics will be sending four male and four female athletes with one coach; beach volleyball will have a two-member male and female teams; bodybuilding is sending two male and two female and a coach; golf is going to have a tryout for a 4-man team with one coach; swimming will

have one coach and two male and two female athletes; and triathlon will send two male and a female in the two-week long competitions.

NMI to send 2 technical officials

The CNMI will also send two technical officials in softball and beach volleyball.

White said nominations are now open for both federations.

A chef de mission meeting is also set in March to update all Pacific Games member countries about the preparations being done by the Games Organizing Committee.

In other news, White is also awaiting word from the International University Sports Federation on its program for the upcoming 2015 Summer University Games, which will happen almost simultaneously with the Pacific Games.

White said he has yet to receive information from FISU regarding the details of the per diem, airfare, and assistance to smaller nations.

The CNMI can send at least two athletes and one coach to the Summer Universiade, while NMSA vice president and former Northern Marianas Athletics president Dr. Kurt Barnes has been named chef de mission to the University Games set in Gwangju, South Korea.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Beo Ngirchongor, left, sprints after getting the baton from Orrin Pharmin during the men's 4x100m relay race in last year's Micronesian Games. This year, the CNMI will be competing in the Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea and the Commonwealth's runners are expected to join the quadrennial event.

Kagman rallies past Sonics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Andrew Palino combined for 15 points to help Kagman's Top 3 scorers.

Meanwhile, the Ol'Aces are also on a roll, notching their third straight win after downing Rollers 3, 66-58, in the first game last Friday.

Tristan Montes powered the Ol'Aces over the winless Rollers 3 (0-4) as he knocked in a team-high 20 points. He

scored the Ol'Aces' first and last basket in the opening half, giving the team a 33-25 half-time edge.

In the second half, Rollers 3 tried to overhaul the lead, but just could not get past Montes and company, as the latter's teammate also stepped up in the final 20 minutes of play to keep their safe distance.

Evan Miller supported Montes with his 10 points, while five other Ol'Aces players combined for 36 more markers.

Angelo Factor led Rollers 3's losing cause with his 23 points, but he got consistent help only from Aaron Ogu-moro, who tallied 15 markers.

First Game

Ol'Aces 66—Montes 20, Miller 10, Leowel Cristobal 9, Castillo 9, Bucayo 6, Nakashima 6, Moses 6.

Rollers 3 58—Factor 23, Ogu-moro 15, Tengco 9, Arceo 4, Dela Cruz 2, Mendoza 1.

Scoring by halves: 33-25, 66-58.

Second Game

Kagman 68—Jo. Santos 16, Je. Santos 15, Lampkin 13, Yu 8, Palino 7, Li 5, Zheng 2.

Sonics 66—Aranda 20, De Guzman 13, Alegre 13, Feria 7, Javier 4, Flores 2, Ogas-awara 2, Je. Villanueva 2.

Scoring by halves: 41-28, 68-66.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman Risers' Andrew Palino, right, is fouled by Dream Team's Sam Darag during an earlier game in the boys U19 division of the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Rematches: Colts-Patriots,
Packers-Seahawks
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Saipan Tribune Sports



Rockets rout Nets after
Howard-Garnett fight
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ohio State wins 1st playoff title



AP
Ohio State's Ezekiel Elliott runs for a nine-yard touchdown during the second half of the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Oregon Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Buckeyes' Elliott and his linemen star with title on line

By RUSTY MILLER
AP SPORTS WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—If anybody's looking for an early Heisman Trophy favorite for next season, look no further than Zeke.

He's already locked up the voting bloc called the Slobs.



Ohio State's Cardale Jones (12) falls on the ground after running for a touchdown during the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Oregon Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Tailback Ezekiel Elliott, known as Zeke to his teammates, had 246 yards on 36 carries and scored four touchdowns. And the "slobs"—the offensive linemen's both affectionate and accurate name for themselves—dominated up front as the Buckeyes ran over, around and through Oregon 42-

20 on Monday night to capture the national championship.

Coach Urban Meyer sang the alma mater with his family and then was asked about the job Elliott and his line did.

"That was one of the great performances in college football history to do what they did," he said. "In history."

The championship was the first for Ohio State and the much maligned Big Ten in a dozen years.

"This is just a surreal moment. We finally did it," Elliott said. "This is why we all came here, to compete and win national championships. We did it."

The sophomore piled up an incredible 696 yards—averaging almost 9 yards a carry—in his last three games against defenses representing three of the best teams in the land.

"Phenomenal," said Carlos Hyde, who played in front of Elliott a year ago before jumping to the NFL. "That was one of the best games by a running back has ever had to play in a national championship game."

And the line—with four of five new starters at the outset of the season—continued its powerful play, creating big holes for Elliott and buying time for quarterback Cardale Jones to find receivers or take off on a bruising run.

No one was more pleased with the line than Orlando Pace, a former Ohio State and NFL

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on Page 26**

By RALPH D. RUSSO
AP COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Ohio State can add the newest version of the national championship trophy to a case that already has a bunch of the old ones.

The Buckeyes' third-stringer matched Oregon's Heisman winner as Cardale Jones led Ohio State past Marcus Mariota and the Ducks 42-20 in the first College Football Playoff national championship game Monday night at the \$1.2 billion home of the Dallas Cowboys.

Behind their bullish backup quarterback and the relentless



running of Ezekiel Elliott, the Buckeyes (14-1) completed a remarkable in-season turnaround with a dominating performance against the Ducks (13-2).

"The chase is complete," Ohio State coach Urban Meyer said. "It's done. It's over. They

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Ducks fall in what may be Mariota's last game

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Marcus Mariota's season ended without the honor that mattered most.

Going into Monday night's game against Ohio State, Oregon's quarterback said he would trade the Heisman

Trophy he won this season for a national championship because the team honor was more important to him than an individual award.

But the fourth-seeded Buckeyes overpowered the Ducks for a 42-20 victory in the first College Football

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AP
Oregon's Marcus Mariota walks off the field after the NCAA college football playoff championship game against Ohio State Monday, Jan. 12, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.